



April 1995 Vol. 10, No. 4

Roger MacBride

Roger MacBride, the Libertarian Party's 1976 presidential candidate, died March 5, 1995, at his home in Miami Beach, FL. He was 65.

MacBride was the adopted grandson of Rose Wilder Lane, daughter of "Little House" author Laura Ingalls Wilder. He was heir to the literary estate and authored three follow-up books in the Little House series. He also co-produced the popular 1970s television series, "Little House on the Prairie."

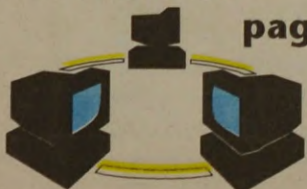
A Harvard-educated lawyer, MacBride won a seat in the Vermont State Legislature as a Republican in 1962. In 1972, as a presidential elector in Virginia, he made political history by casting his electoral vote for the Libertarian Party presidential ticket of John Hospers and Tonie Nathan. This vote made Nathan the first woman in U.S. history to receive an electoral vote. In the 1976 presidential campaign, MacBride received approximately 175,000 votes while appearing on 32 state ballots as the LP candidate.

In 1983, MacBride rejoined the Republican Party and became an active supporter of numerous Republican candidates. He also became the major benefactor of the Republican Liberty Caucus (RLC), a group of libertarians working within the Republican Party.

In 1994, MacBride was elected chairman of the RLC and most recently helped to launch the Congressional Liberty Caucus, a small group of self-described "libertarian" Republicans in the U.S. House.

Computer network resources for Libertarians

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Webb on target

Supports right of self-defense

Sandi Webb, the Libertarian Party's Simi Valley, CA, city council member, has grabbed national media attention recently with her support for the individual's right of self-defense and her admission of carrying a concealed weapon—without a permit—for personal protection. A following commentary by Vin Suprynowicz explains how and why Webb became embroiled in this debate following the case of a man named Masters who shot and killed a graffiti vandal. Also, a commentary by Webb herself, first appearing in the *Ventura County Star* newspapers entitled "The Deadly Catch-22," is reprinted.

"It is also noteworthy that virtually no other civic or political leader in Southern California has dared to say anything at all about the Masters case—much less take a strong stand in his support," said Dan Wiener, Webb's husband and a LP activist. "No Los Angeles city councilmember or supervisor, no state assembly or state senate member, no congressperson, no anyone—nobody else is speaking out. And none of them want to touch [carry concealed weapon] permits with a 10-foot pole.

"That's why Sandi is getting so much media attention: She's willing to take a strong, unequivocal stand in support of Second Amendment rights and self-defense," said Wiener. "She unapologetically proclaims that she carries a firearm for self-protection when needed and will continue to do so even without a permit."

The Libertarian Party's national platform states: "We favor the repeal of laws banning the concealment of weapons or prohibiting pocket weapons."

see **Webb** on page 8



Sandi Webb

VP race opens

Jorgensen declares for ticket

Jo Jorgensen, the 1992 Libertarian Party candidate for U.S. Congress from South Carolina, has officially announced she is seeking the party's 1996 vice presidential nomination.

"I thoroughly enjoyed campaigning for my congressional race," Jorgensen said. "I enjoyed spreading the message of Libertarianism. I think I'd be a great candidate."

Jorgensen, 37, of Greenville, SC, has been a Libertarian for more than 15 years. A former vice chair of the South Carolina Libertarian Party, she also is a past officer of the Greenville County (SC) LP. In addition, she held the position of marketing director for the national party.

Jorgensen is the president and part owner of Digitech, a software duplication company. She graduated cum laude with a degree in psychology from Baylor University and earned an MBA from Southern Methodist University.

She worked as a marketing representative for IBM before leaving to start her own company, Professional Software, Inc. After taking some time off to raise two daughters, Jorgensen joined Digitech in 1993.

"I believe I can effectively communicate the ideas of libertarianism and freedom. My professional background is in sales and dealing with people," she said.

Jorgensen said she received many compliments from local media during her 1992 LP congressional campaign. In one campaign debate, which was broadcast live on network television, she was placed on stage between her two opponents, and a newspaper described her as "a rose between two thorns." The media complimented her on her communications skills and being the only candidate to address the issues.

Jorgensen said she has the time and resources right now to devote to campaigning, and she plans to campaign full time from July 4, 1996, to election day.

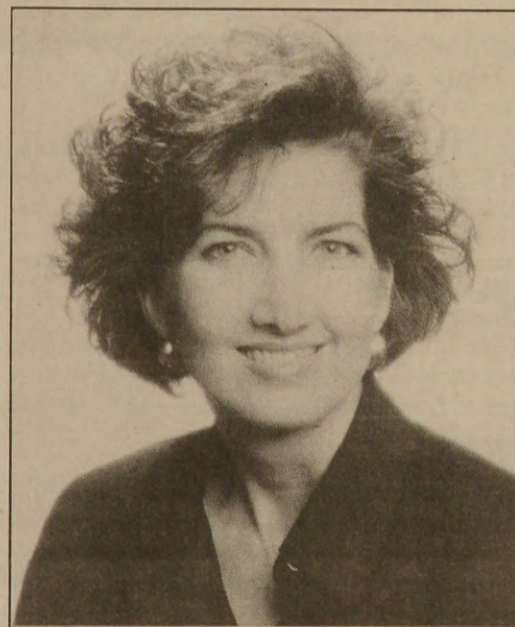
Jorgensen said her general election campaign plans will be tied to the LP's presidential candidate.

"Assuming I'm nominated, I will follow whatever the agenda is of the presidential candidate. One thing I feel very strongly about is that this should be a united campaign," she said. "I make a very good number-two person. I would sit down and talk with the presidential candidate and really spread his theme. I'm looking forward to working with whoever the LP nominates."

Harry Browne and Irwin Schiff are the two announced candidates seeking the LP nomination.

At the present, Jorgensen is trying to get to as many state conventions as possible, to meet party members and "get enthusiasm going for the next election."

For more information, contact Jo Jorgensen for Vice President, 1270 Woodruff Road, Suite 101, Greenville, SC 29607; or e-mail CompuServe: 73140,2465.



Jo Jorgensen

Libertarian Party NEWS

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10th circuit issues bad ruling

By RICHARD WINGER

On Feb. 27, 1995, the 10th circuit ruled that Oklahoma may ban write-ins for president at the general election even though Oklahoma has the second-most difficult ballot access law for third party and independent presidential candidates of any state (only Wyoming requires a higher number of signatures as a percentage of the number of registered voters). Oklahoma is one of five states with a total ban on all write-in votes.

The decision was written by Judge David Ebel (a Reagan appointee) and signed by Judges John Moore (Reagan appointee) and Kathryn Vratil (Bush appointee).

Oklahoma requires a petition signed by 3 percent of the last presidential vote for third party or independent presidential candidates to get on the ballot.

For 1996, the 3 percent requirement equals 41,711 signatures. In order to obtain that number, a petition must contain at least 65,000 signatures to account for those that will be disqualified. At the normal rate for hiring petitioners, plus inevitable other costs, it would cost an estimated \$65,000 for any group to complete this petition.

In the last five presidential elections, only two third parties—Libertarian and New Alliance—have ever managed to put their presidential candidates on the Oklahoma ballot. These two happen to be the only two third parties in that period that have ever placed their presidential candidate on the ballot of all states.

Even some third party candidates who qualified for primary federal matching funds—Sonia Johnson of the Citizens Party in 1984, John Hagelin of the Natural Law Party in 1992, and Lenora Fulani in 1992—were unable to get on in Oklahoma.

The issue is whether the Constitution requires Oklahoma to provide write-in space on its general election ballots, for president, given that it has such restrictive ballot access laws for that office. (For other offices, Oklahoma has extremely easy ballot access laws for independent candidates.)

Although the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Hawaii's ban on write-ins in 1992 in *Burdick v. Takushi*, that was in the context of a plaintiff-voter who wanted to write in a candidate for the legislature in the primary, and anyone could have been on that ballot with 15 signatures. Since ballot access was so easy, the Supreme Court thought the plaintiff's rights were only slightly burdened.

The decision says that Oklahoma access laws are no more difficult than Hawaii's. It describes Hawaii procedures for non-presidential independent candidates, but doesn't mention the Hawaii procedures for third party and independent *presidential* candidates. Thus it was able to disguise the truth that Hawaii requires only 3,829 signatures, due in September, whereas Oklahoma requires more than 10 times as many, due in July.

The 10th circuit implied that an independent presidential candidate in Hawaii must poll 10 percent of the vote in a primary. The truth is that Hawaii doesn't even have a

presidential primary. Since COFOE's (Coalition for Free & Open Elections) brief in this case emphasized the Hawaii presidential procedure—and the point was also made at oral argument—one can conclude only that Judge Ebel hoped to deceive those who read his opinion.

The 10th circuit opinion said that the state has an interest in stopping factionalism, and therefore it may prevent voters from voting for weak candidates. The idea that factionalism is bad is from "The Federalist Papers" by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay.

Factionalism, they said, was an evil, but they meant how elected officials and pressure groups act *after* an election, not the election process itself.

Madison and Hamilton wrote that voters should be allowed to vote freely for the candidate of their choice. Madison said, "A Republic may be converted into an aristocracy or oligarchy as well by limiting the number capable of being elected, as the number authorized to elect." Hamilton said, "The people should choose whom they please to govern them."

In November 1992, the various third party and independent candidates who were not on the Oklahoma ballot polled 361,944 votes. Oklahoma cast 1.33 percent of the national vote. Therefore, it is likely that 4,814 (1.33 percent of 361,944) Oklahomans would have voted for such candidates, if they had been able to do so.

If 4,814 registered voters in Oklahoma had been prevented from voting because of

see **Ruling** on page 7

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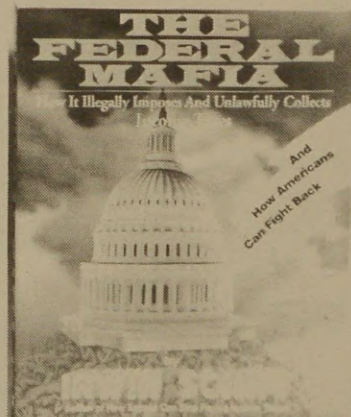
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"He talks to everyone about politics and economics, but he stopped talking to me and with me about what matters to us and our relationship. I felt taken for granted. I felt like he didn't really love me anymore.

"I talked with him. I read a few books on relationships and communication. I went to a counselor. (He wouldn't come.) I tried everything. Nothing worked.

"I was ready to give up. One night while he was at a libertarian meeting, I saw your *Essence of Political Persuasion* Tapes on top of his book shelf.

"Maybe I could persuade him to talk to me...I listened to side 1 of the first tape. Your recipes for quickly creating rapport made sense to me. So did your keys to powerful communication...

"When my husband got home, I told him I had listened to side 1 of your first tape and asked him to practice your rapport recipes with me. We practiced for about 30 minutes. The next thing I knew we were talking about us, our relationship, our marriage and our life together. We talked 3 hours. It seemed like minutes.

"We have listened to your tape set 8 or 9 times. We practiced all the skills you teach. We started listening to and talking with each other. Now we really communicate.

"I finally understand why my husband is a libertarian. I've read 8 libertarian books in 6 weeks and discussed them with my husband. Now I'm a real libertarian, too.

"Michael, your *Essence of Political Persuasion* Tapes saved my marriage.

P.S. "We are expecting our first baby late this year."

Name withheld by request

"I'm a Christian Libertarian. While I've always felt uncomfortable discussing my Christian beliefs with libertarians, I've felt even more uncomfortable discussing my libertarian beliefs with my fellow Christians.

"Your *Essence of Political Persuasion* Tapes gave me the confidence and skills I needed to bring libertarianism to my church. Your story on 'the Judas Bargain' hit me deep. I'm getting powerful results with your 'Political Cross-Dressing' and 'Words Are Weapons' techniques.

"Liberty cannot triumph in America without the support of millions of my fellow Christians. Reaching them will be my special libertarian 'ministry'.

"God Bless you, Michael."

B.L., New York, New York

"...Michael, your Persuasion Tapes earned me \$12,000. I was 1 of 4 candidates for a promotion in my company. I was the least qualified. I don't socialize with the boss. Nobody figured I had a real chance.

"When I went in for the interview, I started off with your Rapport building methods, then I used your 'Intellectual Judo' to turn objections to promoting me into reasons why I was the best candidate. I used your 'Isolate the Concern' tactic to handle the final issue.

"After 30 minutes, my boss said, 'Communication is very important to this job and so is poise under fire. Congratulations, you've got the promotion.' Your *Essence of Political Persuasion* Tapes earned me a \$12,000 a year promotion in 35 minutes."

R.S., Los Angeles, CA

"My letters to the editor got so bad that I made people angry. Since I started using your Political Persuasion methods, people started sending in letters agreeing with me."

T.L., Toronto, CANADA

"...anyway, I got fed up listening to my sociology professor praise welfare statism. One day, after class, I got him alone and used your 'Welfare Junkies' argument on him. It stopped him cold! He asked if I could recommend any books on the subject. I told him I'd bring one by later.

"Michael, that's when I called you. I followed your advice to the letter. I bought a copy of Charles Murray's *LOSING GROUND* - and sold it to my professor. You're right, if I'd given it to him I'd be practicing intellectual welfare, encouraging him to believe in something for nothing and he'd have had no financial investment in reading the book.

"Well, he read the book and asked for more. I gave him a *Laissez Faire* Books catalog (he bought several books over the phone while I was there) and a *CATO* catalog.

"My professor is on his way to becoming a libertarian. Think of how many thousands of students he will influence with libertarian ideas - thanks to your *Essence of Political Persuasion* Tapes."

R.J., Madison, WI

"...I'm a competent, trained Psychiatrist, but I was stuck. He was the most resistant depressive I've ever treated.

"In frustration, I tried your 'Intellectual Judo' method on him. I agreed with his depression. I embraced his position. I added to it, accelerated it and re-directed it.

"He started laughing. We talked. Then we started making progress..."

"Michael, your persuasion techniques are powerful. I regularly use them with clients, colleagues, friends and family. Your methods have improved all my relationships."

Name withheld by request

"I was one of the thousands of aerospace workers laid off. Not only was I out of work but I was competing against these thousands for a shrinking number of jobs here in California.

"For 3 months I got nowhere. One afternoon I listened to your *Essence of Political Persuasion* tapes again. I bought them a year ago.)

"I started using the Rapport building steps, the *One-to-One* and *Political Cross-Dressing* during every interview. In 2 weeks, I got 4 job offers. I'm now back at work. Michael, tell libertarians that your Persuasion tapes aren't just for politics...they got me a job."

B.N., Orange County, CA

"I'm a 74 year old retiree. I call in to several radio talk shows. People used to tell me that my libertarian ideas were crazy...Now they ask me to tell them more - thanks to your *Essence of Political Persuasion* Tapes."

A.J., Denver, CO

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Alaska

The state party will be setting up an outreach table at the Anchorage Saturday Market. State chair **Len Karpinski** is heading up this effort, which will run for 10 Saturdays starting in June.

California

Elizabeth Michael, who has already announced as an LP candidate for U.S. House in 1996, is forming the "Libertarian House Finance Committee." LHFC is designed to be a national committee devoted to electing Libertarians to the U.S. House in 1996 and beyond.

"We will craft a message that Libertarian congressional candidates can run on," said Michael, "a 10-point plan like the Republican contract in 1994, but more intent on eliminating government. It will be a document that will say to America: 'This is what we will do when we go to Congress.' I want input on this from Libertarians all across the country."

"Secondly, we need to develop fund-rais-



National pulse

News from the states

ing mechanisms for our candidates," she said. "Individually, it's difficult as a single candidate to go to a corporate PAC and get money from them. It's more effective for me to go as minority leader of the Libertarian Caucus and tell PACs, 'We're going to run 150 to 200 candidates nationally, and expect to win 20 to 40 seats in 1996. How can we help you get the government off your backs?'"

For more information, contact Elizabeth Michael at LHFC, P.O. Box 6234, Burbank, CA 91510, or call 818-842-7653.

Colorado

Two ballot access bills, HB 1022 and SB 28, passed out of committee in late January. Both bills would lower the signature requirements for county and general assem-

bly seats to 2 percent of the vote cast in the last election, with a cap of 500 signatures. Both bills make it easier for the LP and other third parties to get on the ballot.

Delaware

Dave Wood has already announced and started his campaign for the state house in the 1996 election. He ran for the seat before—with much less preparation and effort—and received 14 percent of the vote. For more information, call him at 302-792-2604.

Kansas

The state party is planning an LP commercial for television. The ad is being produced in a manner that makes it appropriate across the state, but it will be tested in the Topeka area.

Kentucky

LP member **Mike Fenwick** is currently running for mayor of Paducah. He has been out campaigning, handing out libertarian literature and using "The World's Smallest Political Quiz." He is stressing issues concerning the privatization of public services as a means of lowering the tax burden. For more information, write Mike Fenwick, 3253 Harrison St., Paducah, KY 42001-4376.

Maryland

Jesse Markowitz, LP state chair, recently endorsed a bill sponsored by Democratic State Sen. Paul Pinsky that would make it easier for third parties to run candidates in state elections.

Testifying before the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Markowitz told senators that passage of Senate Bill 261 would bring Maryland into compliance with international human rights accords and provide more choices to state voters.

The bill would reduce the number of petition signatures required for a party's candidates to appear on the ballot. This bill also would help independent candidates by reducing the petition signature requirement for them as well. Forty-seven other states already make it easier for smaller parties to participate in the electoral process.

"I represent a constituency that does not fit into either of your two political parties," Markowitz testified. "But while we are different, we are fiercely patriotic Americans who hold dear the precepts laid forth in our national Constitution. Like the leaders of the two ruling parties, it is my job to recruit and train candidates for public office. Unlike your partisan leaders, I have obstacles that were not in the way during the formative years of your parties."

"When I talk to candidates about taking part in democracy by running for office, our first discussion is not about the issues. We cannot even begin to address the solutions we have to offer Maryland voters to overcome the many challenges we, as a state, face. Our first concern has to deal with the technical intricacies of ballot access laws. Just getting on the ballot is a major obstacle for minority parties in Maryland. That obstacle stifles the many voices that go unrepresented in these hallowed chambers," said Markowitz.

"The law, as it now stands, is unfair," he said. "The current rules restricting ballot access were not put into place until the two major parties had grown large enough to have armies of volunteers and leagues of cash contributors to finance compliance."

see **Affiliates** on page 6

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Harry Browne for President!

Even to many Libertarians, the idea that Harry Browne author of *How I Found Freedom in an Unfree World* could become the first Libertarian U.S. President might seem preposterous. But I think it's possible!

At the Terra Libra seminar in Atlanta during January, 1995, Harry Browne spoke about "Why I'm Running for President." About 10 minutes into his presentation I (Frederick Mann) got a sense that Harry Browne could actually win. He has an exceptionally powerful message. And I believe the number of people who are ready for his message is growing very rapidly.

In my report "How Harry Browne Could Actually Become President" I explain in detail why I think Harry Browne could succeed, some of the things he must do to become President, and what could cause his campaign to fail. But even if he doesn't actually become President, there will be huge benefits from his campaign.

I highly recommend that you support his campaign. By doing this in the manner advocated in this advertisement, you can greatly increase your personal power and self-control, strengthen your leadership abilities, expand your personal freedom network, and enjoy substantial earnings benefits.

In an interview with *LP News*, Harry Brown said: "Collectivist organizations are the least efficient way to achieve anything complicated. It is a delusion to say, 'If we all sacrifice for the cause, we'll all be better off someday.' That's the essence of collectivism. Anyone who participates has to feel that he will be better off..."

Well, here's a way for you to promote Harry Browne for President — and make good money in the process!

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Douglas Casey: "Why Government is Obsolete"

Douglas Casey is the world's bestselling financial and investment author. He is also a leading Libertarian and a member of Harry Browne's campaign committee. This audio tape, recorded at the first Terra Libra seminar in Fort Collins, Colorado in June, 1994, contains a most powerful set of arguments, demolishing all the "reasons" why people think government might be necessary. Ideal for persuading your family, friends, associates, and acquaintances that freedom is better than government. Douglas Casey at his brilliant best!

The Importance of Self-Control

In *The Lucifer Principle* (The Atlantic Monthly Press, NY; 1995) Howard Bloom indicates that the dramatic lengthening of the human life expectancy during the past 200 years owes less to "modern drugs, diagnostic techniques, surgery, hospitals, or any of the other tools of contemporary health care" than we might think. He indicates "that devastating illnesses like typhoid, cholera, measles, smallpox, and tuberculosis began their decline in the mid-1800s. Over time, these sicknesses dwindled to a tiny fraction of their previous levels. The wonder drugs usually credited with eradicating the dis-

eases — antibiotics — were not invented until nearly one hundred years after the illnesses started to disappear."

The incidence of tuberculosis declined a dramatic 97% between 1800 and 1945, when streptomycin was developed to virtually wipe out the little remaining incidence of TB. Some researchers attribute the dramatic improvement in health and longevity during the past 200 years to better nutrition, cleaner water supplies, and better sanitation.

However, California epidemiologist Leonard A. Sagan suggests a link between the degree of **control** you have over your life and the degrees of health and longevity you enjoy. And the degree to which you control your life represents the **freedom** you enjoy. If someone else controls your life you're not free. You are free to the degree you control your own life. Rose Wilder Lane said: "Freedom means self-control; no more, no less."

Howard Bloom cites numerous studies, both on experimental animals and human subjects, establishing that the degree of control you have over your life affects you profoundly in two respects:

(a) **your immune system**; and (b) **your mental powers**.

Helplessness — a sense of no control — tends to decimate your immune system and crumble your body's defense mechanisms. Self-control or freedom energizes your mind and sharpens your mental faculties; while lack of self-control or loss of freedom tends to dumb your mind and can cripple your mental powers. Bloom substantiates these discoveries with numerous scientific studies.

To increase your sense of self-control, you need to become a leader — or a more powerful and effective leader.

Pearson and Shaw on Self-Control

Other hardened warriors in the battle for liberty are Durk Pearson and Sandy Shaw. They're shining beacons in the quest for freedom of choice in health care and nutrition. Regulars on the "public speaking circuit," they spoke at the Terra Libra Seminar in Orange County, California in October, 1994. Many Libertarians are of course familiar with their ongoing crusade against bureaucrats, particularly the FDA. Does a "licensed doctor" from the monopoly medical establishment have to tell you how to take care of yourself? Do you value your freedom of choice in health and nutrition? Stay healthy the scientific way! Durk and Sandy will brighten your day, as you welcome them at your convenience with sight and sound.

In their two tapes, they have a great deal to say about how to improve your control over your health and your brain. You'll be amazed by the improvement in your brainpower if

you follow their recommendations. By the way, some of the brain- and health-boosting nutritional products they recommend are available from Terra Libra.

Several of us at Terra Libra "headquarters" follow Durk and Sandy's recommendations. You too can experience an enormous sense of control over your own health or state of your body. You'll no longer feel at the mercy of disease and illness beyond your

control. (The conventional way of thinking about sickness can be horrifying: Cancer or heart disease can strike you at any moment; doctors can do little about it — sometimes their "cures" are worse than the diseases!)

Do yourself a favor and order the Pearson and Shaw tapes!

Reprogram Your Brain for Maximum Personal Power

One of our bright young stars at Terra Libra "headquarters," psychology graduate Mark Lindsay, starts out fresh with the first in a series of tapes designed to help you master your personal power. The first tape — appropriately entitled "Reprogram Your Brain for Maximum Personal Power" — is available right now. Mark Lindsay possesses many thinking skills at a level comparable to Terra Libra founder Frederick Mann. His script is strong in visual, auditory, and kinesthetic imagery. We believe you can use this tape right now to unleash and refresh to even greater levels, your inner personal power. That power of creativity and well-being. That power of making it worthwhile to get up every morning, feeling refreshed and welcoming the start of another productive day in your life. Life is to be lived to the fullest, and we don't think you should miss another day of making sure this happens in your life to the sharpest extent possible.

Why We Emphasize Personal Development

Quite frankly, we believe that many Libertarians can become vastly more powerful and effective at promoting liberty. You will be amazed by how much more you can achieve when, in addition to working for the cause of liberty, you also focus on expanding your personal freedom, power, health, competence, etc. The gains in energy, personal power, self-control, and better health you and your freedom network can make by implementing the recommendations of our Libertarian speakers and authors, could just make the difference — that enables Harry Browne to become President in 1996!



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Affiliates

continued from page 4

Missouri

Bill Johnson, the LP's 1994 U.S. Senate candidate, has been named executive director of the state party.

The organization of a campus libertarian group is under way at Southwest Missouri State University. Coordinating the effort are **Jane Lansaw**, Greene County LP secretary, and **Tracy Camp**, an engineering student at the University of Missouri-Rolla.

Dave Ericson, the LP's 1994 Jefferson County Commission candidate, is leading an effort to expose corruption in local gov-

ernment. Ericson is charging the city attorney with illegal collection of fees.

Ohio

Jim Berns recently announced that he will run again for the Cincinnati School Board. Berns was a school board candidate in 1991 and 1993, and has run for state representative and the U.S. House several times in the past.

"It is my belief that children receive a superior education at voluntary schools such as private, religious, home, and neighbor schools," said Berns. "My campaign

will be a message to parents to choose voluntary education."

Berns said that as a board member he would like to represent five groups: 1) parents who want the best for their children and want to escape the Cincinnati public schools; 2) parents whose children attend voluntary schools; 3) people who pay property taxes and do not have children; 4) retired people or those whose children are past school age; and 5) property owners.

"These constituencies need to be represented on the school board to balance the unrealistic views of present board members," said Berns.

Berns, 46, lives in College Hill with his wife and their six children.

West Virginia

Two state party members, **Matt Fisher** and **Andrew Atwood**, both high school seniors in Charleston, have dedicated a major portion of their personal computer BBS to the LP and libertarian discussion. The BBS is very popular among young computer users in the Charleston area. It allows downloading of various Libertarian materials and discussion of the LP platform. BBS users who are or become members of the LP are accorded additional access time. Their BBS can be reached at 304-345-2527.

The correct home telephone number for state chair **John Brown** is 304-757-3821. It was listed incorrectly in the March NEWS.

Let us know about your activities! Send your affiliate news to LP NEWS, Box 3391, Gainesville, GA 30503.

How to Legally Stop Paying Federal Income Tax

Call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 and ask them this question: "What law or statute makes me liable to file an individual income tax return?" This one question holds the key to your success.

No matter what the IRS tells you, write it down. But don't take my or anyone else's word for it. Call and find out the answer for yourself. The IRS might tell you that the 16th Amendment is the law that gives them the authority to tax you. But the 16th Amendment gives Congress the authority to tax "income." What you earn for your labor is "wages."

After you have completed your research and found out on your own that there is no law which makes you liable to file an individual income tax return, it's time to take action.

At the very least, call and order the video *Liberty in the Balance* for \$24.95. This is the video that I recommend to anyone interested in getting out of the system. If you enjoy reading, I highly recommend the book, *IRS Humbug* for \$29.95.

If you're interested in purchasing our Educational Package, for \$59.95 we'll send

you the video and book listed above, plus a copy of the Constitution, a 30-page booklet on the subject of Common Law, Unincorporated Trusts, my 24-page booklet entitled *The Great Snow Job—The Story of Taxes and Money*, (which includes both a formal legal presentation on the subject of taxes and a copy of the letter my wife and I received from the IRS indicating that we are no longer required to file a federal income tax return) and 2 issues of "Anti-Shyster" magazine.

More than likely the IRS will cite a section of the IRS Code, also known as Title 26. But a quick phone call or trip to the library will reveal that the IRS Code is not law—that it has never been enacted into positive law and is merely Prima Facie law, which is only presumed to be true until disproven by evidence to the contrary.

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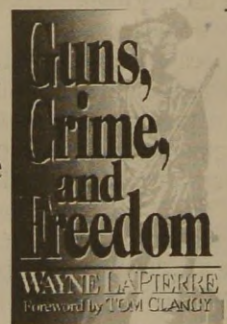
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Schiff for President
c/o Jeff Kanter
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Beachwood, OH 44122
216-248-9995 (mailbox #3)
216-248-9994 (fax)
e-mail: kantnow@aol.com

FIJA activist faces trial for leafleting

On March 15, wholesale florist Yvonne Regas, of Sparks, NV, was scheduled to be arraigned in U.S. District Court in Reno on charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice, aiding and abetting obstruction of justice, and jury tampering.

Regas, who faces three to six years in prison, was arrested for placing brochures published by the Fully Informed Jury Association (FIJA) under the wiper blades of cars parked near the courthouse during the trial of her son and ex-husband on drug charges.

The brochures, which have been distributed frequently at courthouses across the country for the past five years, explain the rights, powers, and responsibilities of trial jurors. Often the brochures are handed out to all who enter the courthouse by FIJA activists, according to Larry Dodge, FIJA co-founder.

"This is the latest—and because it's federal, the most serious—in a series of harassments aimed at stopping FIJA activists from leafleting," said Dodge.

In four previous cases, confrontations resulting in felony jury tampering charges were in front of state courthouses. Two resultant prosecutions have been won by the defendants, and two others are still pending.

"These actions represent a serious and patterned escalation by the government over earlier reactions," said Dodge, "which usually entailed, at worst, shooing FIJA leafleters off the porch of the building and

onto the sidewalks. After relocating there, and relying on U.S. v. Grace, 1983, in which the Supreme Court declared the sidewalks around a courthouse to be a 'traditional free speech zone,' the leafleters would continue leafleting, undisturbed."

The Regas case may indeed be the result of successes that FIJA activists have had in educating jurors at a number of federal cases, including the Branch Davidian trial on gun and conspiracy charges in San Antonio, and the Rodger Sless trial for selling "unapproved nutritional supplements" in

Albuquerque, explained Dodge.

The Regas case has attracted some of the country's premier constitutional lawyers, including 1992 LP vice presidential candidate Nancy Lord and Larry Becraft.

"They see this as a watershed case for both the First and Sixth Amendments," said Dodge, "and believe that conviction of Ms. Regas could result in erosion of the rest of the Bill of Rights. On the other hand, dismissal of charges or, especially, an acquittal by jury of Ms. Regas, would measurably improve the future of justice by jury,

and thus the future of all other individual rights."

For more information or to offer support in this case, you can contact Lawyers for Liberty, c/o Nancy Lord, 1718 Peachtree St. NW, Suite 499, Atlanta, GA 30309. Lord notes that if the defense team is successful in its motion for dismissal, donors will receive the unused portion of their money back, or should a donor so specify, she will send all or part of the unused funds to FIJA as a contribution—so they can print and distribute more literature.

Ruling

continued from page 2

their race, economic class, or religion, any court would have been horrified. However, in this case, several thousand Oklahomans were prevented from voting for the candidate of their choice because they happened to support parties that weren't big and rich enough to get on the ballot.

COFOE would like to appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, but it must raise \$1,500 for this purpose. Anyone who contributes at least \$10 toward this effort will receive a copy of the 19-page decision.

Write COFOE at P.O. Box 470296, San Francisco, CA 94147.

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This article first appeared in Ballot Access News, Box 470296, San Francisco, CA 94147. Subscriptions are \$8 per year.

"Women's Rights and Abortion": Commentaries on the LP's plank and two state LP resolutions differing with it. For a copy, please send \$1 to: Libertarians for Life, 13424 Hathaway Drive, #18, Wheaton, MD 20906; 301/460-4141.

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There are over 7,687,142 libertarians in America — and most of them don't even know they're libertarians.

— Times/Mirror 1994 nationwide survey

Gallup polls disagree. They say there are over 32,879,934 libertarians in America.

At least one out of every 25 people you meet are already libertarians — and don't even know it. These people don't need to be convinced or argued with or converted. They just have to be shown they have a political home.

How do we reach these libertarians? Good news! We have a tool. It's effective, easy and proven. It's even fun! And now it's more powerful than ever before.

Operation Politically Homeless is the fastest, easiest, most effective way to quickly reach large numbers of libertarian-minded people. It's fun and it works, even if you're shy. Just set up Operation Politically Homeless anywhere there are lots of people — festivals, street fairs, gun shows, concerts, conventions — and watch it happen.

Here's how it works. An Operation Politically Homeless booth is staffed by a few libertarians. They simply ask passers-by to take the "World's Smallest Political Quiz." Most people are glad you asked. Those who score libertarian — typically 20-40% — are then asked if they would like more information about libertarian ideas. They leave you their names and addresses.

Yes, it's that easy.

But does it work?

Yes — amazingly well! Check out these results:

- 344 names and addresses collected in *one day* at a music festival by Texas Libertarian Party members!
- 97 hot prospects gathered in *just 4 hours* by Cincinnati libertarians at a tax protest!
- 798 libertarian contacts gathered by Florida LP volunteers at a three-day arts festival!
- 350-plus names and addresses collected in *just 8 hours* by Georgia libertarians at a rally!

Operation Politically Homeless guarantees you'll collect at least a few dozen names and addresses anywhere there are people gathered. You'll quickly find people eager to know more about liberty — guaranteed!

What's in it for you?

Operation Politically Homeless is the most powerful libertarian recruiting tool ever invented. You quickly and easily identify lots of potential local supporters, so you can rapidly

build your organization. An Operation Politically Homeless booth is also a great way to energize an organization. You will instantly see concrete results from your efforts. You'll see faces light up over and over again as people realize, for the first time, that they're really **libertarians** — that they **do** have a political home.

The biggest benefit of all: there will be lots more libertarians as a result of your efforts. More people who share our ideals, our values, our vision. Thousands more people who are part of the *solution* instead of the problem. And isn't that what we all want?

Now we've made this powerful tool even more effective.

We've just added a whole new dimension to Operation Politically Homeless — a way to make sure that the thousands of new libertarians contacted receive a strong, effective follow-through.

Now every name you gather will hear from the finest organizations and publications in the libertarian movement.

Here's the plan. Using Operation Politically Homeless, you and your local libertarian organization gather dozens or hundreds of prospect names. You use these names in the most effective way to build your local or state organization.

Then: *send those names to the Advocates.* We'll in turn make them available to America's leading libertarian organizations and publications.

Remember how you felt?

Remember how you felt when you discovered you weren't the only libertarian in the world? When you learned there were other people who shared your political views?

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Call today for your free "Operation Politically Homeless" Information Kit: 1-800-932-1776.

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Please call now — hundreds of libertarians in your town are waiting!



Advocates for Self-Government, Inc., 3955 Pleasantdale Rd. # 106A, Atlanta, GA 30340.

Webb

continued from page 1

By VIN SUPRYNOWICZ

My old friend Greg Fait used to say no one ever got arrested for doing one stupid thing. It takes three.

Drive around with expired plates? Odds are you could cruise by the station house till you ran out of gas and never get arrested.

Now, load your buddies into the car, break open a kilo of marijuana on the back seat, and assign them to break it down into 44 equal-sized ounces. You're still surprisingly safe.

Until one of the gang decides to drop his trousers and press his posterior to the window as you pass a police car waiting to take a left turn. Now you have done three stupid things.

William A. Masters was walking by a highway underpass in Los Angeles recently—at 1 a.m.—when he saw a pair of graffiti "taggers" vandalizing a wall with spray paint.

Continuing to spray graffiti after you're old enough to drive is just one stupid thing.

But the perpetrators, in this case, had driven to the scene and parked their car. Mistake number two. So Mr. Masters, a good citizen but no vigilante, merely copied down the offenders' license number on a piece of paper, and prepared to quietly leave the scene.

But the culprits didn't like that. So they accosted him, one threatening him with a screwdriver.

And that would be...mistake number three.



Vin
Suprynowicz

Commentary

William A. Masters II had a gun. Two perps were shot. One died.

Showing a degree of common sense not normally expected in California, Los Angeles County authorities ruled the shooting self-defense, and declined to charge Masters for it. They are still deciding whether to file charges on the lesser, misdemeanor count of carrying a concealed weapon without a permit.

At that point in the tale, Sandi Webb, a City Council member in nearby Simi Valley, spoke up.

The *Los Angeles Times* reports Webb was the victim of a rape in a San Bernardino apartment complex some years back. "Despite her screams, none of the nearby residents came to her aid," the paper wrote Feb. 15. It was after the rape that she bought her first handgun, the victim-disarmament paper says. So when Webb heard Masters might be charged with carrying a concealed weapon without a permit, she spoke out. She herself carries concealed from time to time without a permit, she said.

Horrors! "Through her public comments

she let people know it would be easy for them to do the same," the *L.A. Times* editorialized Feb. 14. "Her past trauma notwithstanding, elected officials can hardly be more irresponsible than this."

"It's just a little .22 revolver," Webb told me this week. "I have a beautiful 14-year-old daughter who is an aspiring actress. Every now and then she gets an audition in Los Angeles, in Hollywood, and I take her down there. And some of the areas are not real good, so I put a gun in my purse."

So why hasn't City Council member Webb applied for a concealed weapon permit?

"We're in a real deadly Catch-22 here," she explains. "The government agrees you have a right to protect your life, that you may use deadly force to protect your own life. But they make it illegal to carry anything with which to accomplish this. They say, 'We'll allow you to apply for a carry permit,' but they won't issue the permit."

"In Los Angeles, until they were sued recently, they had only issued one permit in 18 years, and that was to Police Chief Willie Williams. In Simi Valley when I took office there were three permits that had been issued in a city of 100,000. So it's a farce. I didn't want special favors, and that's who gets the permits, the politicians, movie stars, people like that. The Second Amendment is my permit."

Isn't Webb afraid of being arrested, now that she's admitted her crime?

"The chief of police here says it's a misdemeanor, and he's not going to search me; just the admission that you have violated a misdemeanor statute is not some-

thing they could take to court."

Although Webb is one of the most prominent elected members of the Libertarian Party, Simi Valley Council candidates run without partisan affiliation and she insists her libertarianism "isn't an issue."

"Most of the citizens are for me, they're having a hard time coming up with stuff against me because everyone hates these graffiti taggers," Webb said after her morning appearance on CBS News Feb. 15.

"Graffiti abatement"—painting the stuff out—costs the city of Simi Valley \$1,000 per business day, Webb said.

"What the news media have been trying to do is turn Masters into a vigilante, making it out that he was trying to leave the scene. But in fact, he stayed at the scene and did CPR. I suspect if he had not stayed at the scene they never would have found him."

Does Webb see any hope of a more sensible attitude toward carrying self-defense weapons in California anytime soon?

"I would be happy with the same system they have in Florida, a very quick must-issue law." (Florida county sheriffs are now obliged to promptly issue a concealed weapon permit on request, to anyone but a convicted felon or mental defective.) "I would prefer to fight for the Second Amendment, but I would settle for that."

"But," she says, "here in California the liberals rule."

Vin Suprynowicz is the assistant editorial page editor of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. His column is syndicated in the U.S. and Canada via Mountain Media Syndications, P.O. Box 4422, Las Vegas, NV 89127-4422.

DEATH & TAXES



Jeffrey F. Jackson's shocking film exposé tells the story of Gordon Kahl, a North Dakota farmer who became America's "most-wanted" fugitive.

How did a WWII hero become the target of one of the largest manhunts in FBI history? Was Kahl a gun-toting fanatic or a victim of the IRS? Did Bill Clinton conspire to cover-up his torture and execution? Was the badly burned and mutilated body found in Arkansas, in fact, Gordon Kahl?

DEATH & TAXES explores the myths and controversies surrounding a man who dared to challenge the IRS. The movie follows the documentary trail of Kahl as his body is exhumed for a new autopsy. Building on newsreel clips, interviews and eye witness accounts of the two fiery shoot-outs between Kahl and federal agents, **DEATH & TAXES** reveals for the first time the true story as it happened and as it continues to reverberate nationally.

"DEATH & TAXES is the true story of what the government did to Gordon and our family..."

-Joan Kahl

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Derek Elly, Variety
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Sheila Whitaker, London Film Festival

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The deadly Catch-22

By SANDI WEBB

"False is the idea of utility... that would take fire from men because it burns, and water because one may drown in it; that has no remedy for evils, except destruction (of liberty). The laws that forbid the carrying of arms are laws of such nature. They disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes... such laws serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man."

—Thomas Jefferson,
'Commonplace Book,' 1775

Individuals have a fundamental right of self-defense. We have a right to use force, even deadly force, to protect ourselves if our lives are threatened or endangered by violent criminals.

This does not strike me as a controversial position. Aside from a few pacifists, who draw no moral distinction between the aggressive use of force and the defensive use of force, most people would consider this to be intuitively obvious.

But here in California we are faced with a deadly Catch-22. Even though we have a moral and legal right to protect ourselves, California law makes it illegal for most people to carry the means of doing so.

Throughout most of California it's virtually impossible to get a permit to carry a concealed weapon (known as a CCW) no

matter what danger you may face. For 18 years the City of Los Angeles did not issue a single CCW permit, until it finally made an exception for Police Chief Willie Williams when he was first hired.

Here in Simi Valley, a city of over 100,000 people, only about two dozen CCW permits have been issued. Even though we're relatively safe in Simi Valley, many of us still have to work in or travel to Los Angeles. That's where we really need to be able to protect ourselves.

And it's not just firearms. Did you know that you cannot legally carry a knife or a screwdriver or a baseball bat or a walking stick or even a heavy flashlight to protect yourself? Doing so is a felony under California's "Dangerous Weapons Control Law." You even need a license for pepper spray (which isn't always effective, especially in the rain or beyond a few feet of distance).

Of course criminals are not hampered by these rules; they're already breaking the law. Criminals are actually helped by these rules because it means their victims are safely disarmed.

Those who demand gun control or gun prohibition are really advocating victim disarmament. Yet statistics show that the safest thing you can do when you are attacked by a criminal is to defend yourself with a gun. A 1979-85 National Crime Survey by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics showed that a robbery victim who uses a firearm to resist attack is half as likely to be injured as a victim who either offers no resistance or

see **Catch-22** on page 9

Why guns?

By L. NEIL SMITH

Over the past 30 years, I've been paid to write almost two million words, every one of which, sooner or later, came back to the issue of guns and gun ownership. Naturally, I've thought about the issue a lot, and it has *always* determined the way I vote.

People accuse me of being a single-issue writer, a single-issue thinker, and a single-issue voter, but it isn't true. What I've chosen, in a world where there's never enough time and energy, is to focus on the one political issue which most clearly and unmistakably demonstrates what any politician—or political philosophy—is made of, right down to the creamy liquid center.

Make no mistake: All politicians—even those ostensibly on the side of guns and gun ownership—hate the issue and anyone, like me, who insists on bringing it up. They hate it because because it's an X-ray machine. It's a Vulcan mind-meld. It's the ultimate test to which any politician—or political philosophy—can be put.

If a politician isn't perfectly comfortable with the idea of his average constituent, any man, woman, or responsible child, walking into a hardware store and paying cash—for any rifle, shotgun, handgun, machinegun, *anything*—without producing ID or signing one scrap of paper, he isn't your *friend* no matter what he tells you.

If he isn't genuinely enthusiastic about

Commentary

his average constituent stuffing that weapon into a purse or pocket or tucking it under a coat and walking home without asking anybody's permission, he's a four-flusher, no matter what he claims.

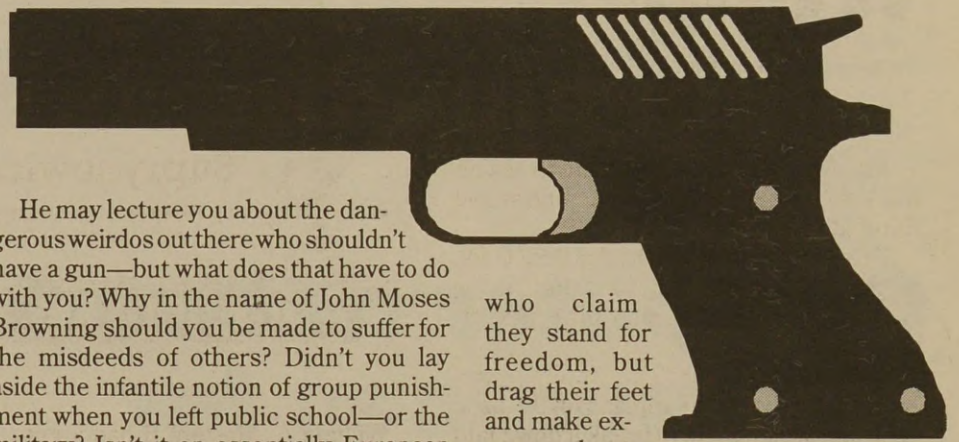
What his attitude—toward your ownership and use of weapons—conveys is his real attitude about *you*. And if he doesn't trust you, then why in the name of John Moses Browning should you trust him?

If he doesn't want you to have the means of defending your life, do you want him in a position to control it?

If he makes excuses about obeying a law he's sworn to uphold and defend—the highest law of the land, the Bill of Rights—do you want to entrust him with *anything*?

If he ignores you, sneers at you, complains about you, or defames you, if he calls you names only he thinks are evil—like "Constitutionalist"—when you insist that he account for himself, hasn't he betrayed his oath, isn't he unfit to hold office, and doesn't he really belong in *jail*?

Sure, these are all leading questions. They're the questions that led me to the issue of guns and gun ownership as the clearest and most unmistakable demonstration of what any given politician—or political philosophy—is really made of.



He may lecture you about the dangerous weirdos out there who shouldn't have a gun—but what does that have to do with you? Why in the name of John Moses Browning should you be made to suffer for the misdeeds of others? Didn't you lay aside the infantile notion of group punishment when you left public school—or the military? Isn't it an essentially European notion, anyway—Prussian, maybe—and certainly not what America was supposed to be all about?

And if there are dangerous weirdos out there, does it make sense to deprive you of the means of protecting yourself from them? Forget about those other people, those dangerous weirdos, this is about *you*, and it has been, all along.

Try it yourself: If a politician won't trust you, why should you trust him? If he's a man—and you're not—what does his lack of trust tell you about his real attitude toward women? If "he" happens to be a *woman*, what makes her so perverse that she's eager to render her fellow women helpless on the mean and seedy streets her policies helped create? Should you believe her when she says she wants to help you by imposing some infantile group health care program on you at the point of the kind of gun she doesn't want you to have?

On the other hand—or the other party—should you believe anything politicians say

who claim they stand for freedom, but drag their feet and make excuses about repealing limits on your right to own and carry weapons? What does this tell you about their real motives for ignoring voters and ramming through one infantile group trade agreement after another with other countries?

Makes voting simpler, doesn't it? You don't have to study every issue—health care, international trade—all you have to do is use this X-ray machine, this Vulcan mind-meld, to get beyond their empty words and find out how politicians really feel. About you. And that, of course, is why they hate it.

And that's why I'm accused of being a single-issue writer, thinker, and voter.

But it isn't true, is it?

L. Neil Smith is the award-winning author of "The Probability Broach," "The Crystal Empire," "Henry Martyn," "The Lando Calrissian Adventures," and "Pallas." He is an NRA Life Member and founder of the Libertarian Second Amendment Caucus.

Catch-22

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resists using any other weapon. Similarly, an assault victim who resists with a firearm is only 40 percent as likely to be injured.

Twenty-two states already make it easy for citizens to carry concealed weapons. For example, Florida has a "must issue" law, under which more than 100,000 residents have obtained CCW permits, without any of the horrible consequences predicted by gun opponents. In fact, CCW permit holders are far more law-abiding than the general population. Crime in Florida is down, and the murder rate in particular has dropped substantially.

It's impossible for the police to be everywhere all the time to shield us from crime. And it's a well-established principle in California law that the police have no legal obligation to protect us, and they can't be sued when they fail. From extraordinary events like the Los Angeles riots to everyday crimes like robbery and rape, we have to take primary responsibility for our own safety.

The present situation in California is a farce. Any honest citizen who feels a need to carry a firearm to protect himself or herself should be able to do so. Not only do we have a moral right to do so, we have a constitutional right.

Besides the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 1 of the California Constitution says, "All people are by nature free and independent and have inalienable rights. Among these are enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining safety, happiness, and privacy."

When I was elected to the Simi Valley

City Council in 1990, and re-elected in 1994, I swore an oath "that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California." I have not and I will not violate that oath.

I think most people would be satisfied if the police would just start issuing CCW permits in a reasonable manner. I don't want any special privileges for myself. But I will do whatever it takes to protect myself and my daughter when we're forced to travel into the bad parts of Los Angeles.

We must not submit to this deadly Catch-22, that says we're allowed to defend ourselves but we aren't allowed anything to do it with. We must not meekly become disarmed victims. We must not helplessly give in to crime.

We must not surrender our fundamental right to self-defense.

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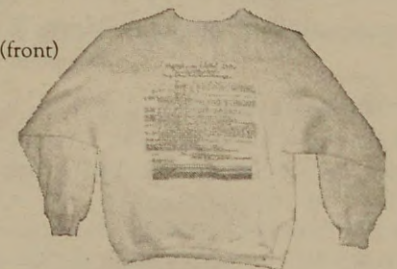
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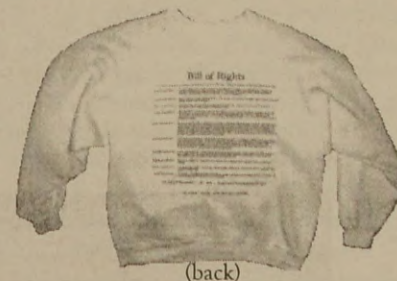
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Libertarianism online

Computer network resources for Libertarians

By JOSEPH W. DEHN, III

Over the past few years, computer-based services like electronic mail have been making the transition from being the latest gadget of the technologically-oriented minority to being the everyday tool of a large part of the population. As the availability of these tools has increased, they have become more and more important to Libertarians as vehicles both for communication within the party and for getting information about the party to others.

With the interconnection of almost all online services through the global Internet, users of many previously-isolated systems can now communicate with each other and "publish" information online in ways that make it available to almost anyone, almost anywhere.

Whether they access "the net" through their office computer, through a local bulletin board system (BBS), or through a commercial service provider, LP members are finding that these services are helping them be more effective activists.

Here is an overview of the most important services available through computer networks, along with some suggestions about how you can get access to these services if you aren't using them already.

What Can Computer Networks Do For You?

Electronic Mail

Electronic mail allows you to send a message to another individual. The recipient can read your message as soon as it arrives in his or her electronic "mailbox"—within minutes in many cases—or wait to deal with it as his or her time allows.

This makes e-mail ideal for communication among volunteer activists with differing schedules. People can read and respond to messages at their own pace. The problem of finding a mutually convenient time for a phone discussion is eliminated—especially helpful when working across time zones.

Within recent years, nearly all of the major e-mail systems have been connected to each other, so if somebody has an e-mail address you are almost certain to be able to send him or her mail, regardless of what system you use. (The main exceptions are some of the smaller local BBSs, and some inter-office mail systems in companies that haven't yet connected up with the Internet.)

Internet has set the de facto standard for e-mail addresses, which take the form "somebody@somplace", where "somplace" identifies the computer system, company, or other organization and "somebody" identifies the individual person. The "somplace" part (technically, the name of a "host" or a "domain") itself has two or more parts, separated with dots (periods).

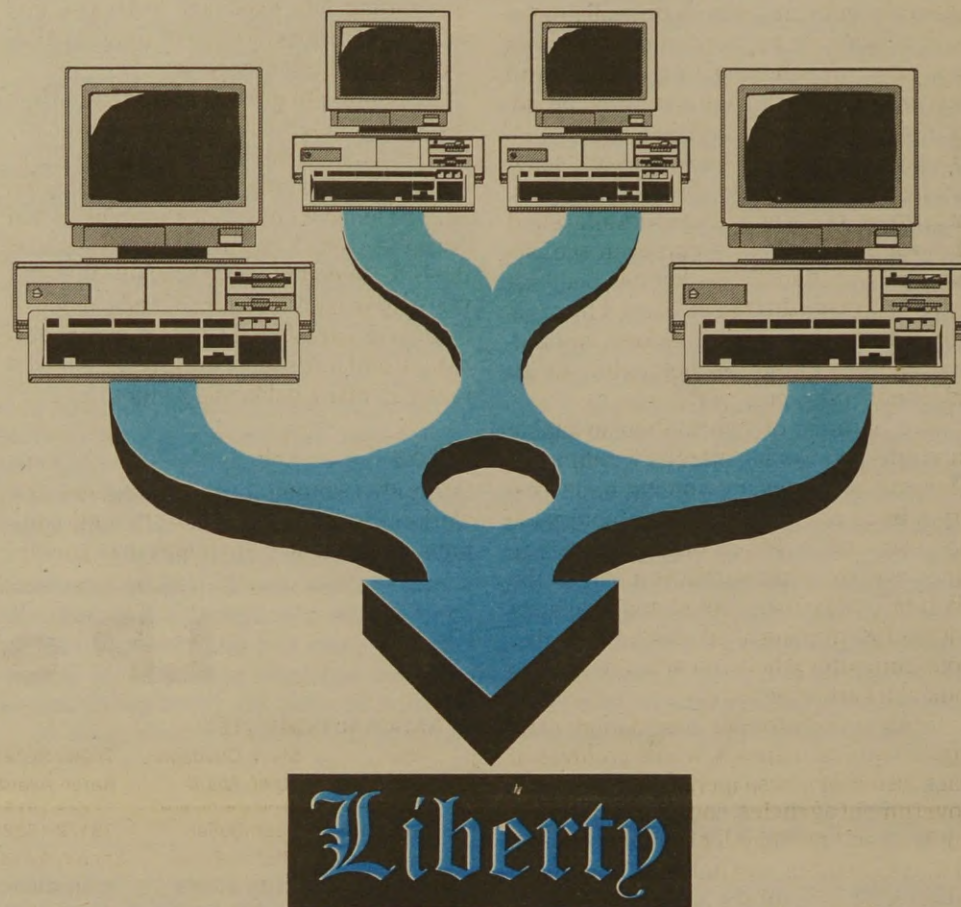
The "somebody" part is usually somehow derived from the person's name (e.g., his or her initials); for example, "jwd3@dehnbase.fidonet.org" is my address, on my BBS. On some systems the user is identified by an arbitrary string of letters and/or numbers assigned when the user signs up; for example, "71610.3614@compuserve.com" is the address of LPNEWS Editor Randy Langhenry, on the CompuServe online service. When transcribing and using e-mail addresses, be sure to type all of the characters exactly as shown—if you get even one character wrong, your message will not get through.

Almost all LP committee chairs and project managers at the national level have e-mail addresses [see box], so if you are planning to work with them you will find e-mail particularly useful. Many activists at the state and local level also already have e-mail addresses. Addresses for state chairs are included in the list published periodically in the NEWS. Addresses for other state-level party officials and for local party officials can be found in directories online.

E-mail also can be used to communicate with more traditional media outlets; many newspapers now accept both letters to the editor and press releases through e-mail.

Mailing Lists

Electronic "mailing lists" extend the benefits of e-mail from individuals to groups, to provide for the distribution of news and announcements and to allow discussion of topics of common interest.



Individuals interested in a certain type of information "subscribe" to a list, like subscribing to a magazine or newsletter. People with announcements or comments on that subject send a message to a special e-mail address, which causes copies of the message to be automatically forwarded to each of the subscribers. In general, if you can send and receive e-mail, you can also subscribe to and contribute to mailing lists.

One of the most useful mailing lists for Libertarians is "libernet". Subscribing to libernet is a good way to keep up with what is going on in the whole libertarian movement. For information about various subscription options, send a message to: "libernet-request@dartmouth.edu".

Along with "libernet" there is also "libernet-d", for debate and discussion ("libernet" itself is reserved for news and announcements). This list will allow you to engage in a worldwide conversation with other libertarians. But a warning: The number of messages you will receive if you subscribe can be quite large. If you don't have the inclination to receive that much e-mail, subscribe just to "libernet".

For LP activists interested in party business at the national level, there is the "LPUS" list. The topic of this list is strictly internal business—no political theory or public policy discussions. To subscribe, send a message to: "lpus-request@dehnbase.fidonet.org".

There is a growing number of state and local mailing lists, some for general news and discussion and some for party busi-

ness [see box]. There are also many mailing lists for discussion of specific political topics that are of interest to libertarians, such as drug legalization, jury nullification, and the right to keep and bear arms.

Usenet

Usenet is another facility for news and discussion that is available on many systems. Within Usenet, "articles" (messages) are organized by topic into "newsgroups". Instead of individual subscribers getting copies of messages in their own mailbox (as in the case of a mailing list), each system which is part of Usenet (e.g., a commercial online service, a campus network, or a BBS) keeps a central, shared copy of the articles. Articles are kept available for users of that system to read for a certain amount of time (determined by the system operator), and then deleted. (Of course you can always make your own private copy of an article that you find interesting, and store it on your own computer.)

The most important newsgroup for libertarians is called "talk.politics.libertarian". Thousands of other newsgroups exist to cover specialized topics, and in many parts of the country there are newsgroups for discussion of politics at the state and local level as well.

Usenet also is used to distribute a growing library of "FAQs", articles containing introductory material on a topic, listings and tables of useful information, and answers to "frequently asked questions" (hence the name). Originally intended to

reduce the number of repetitive questions asked by new users, the FAQs also have become a valuable way to provide rapidly updated reference material quickly to users around the world.

Information of interest to libertarians that is available through FAQs includes a listing of libertarian organizations, a listing of LP presidential ballot access progress by state, and the directories of e-mail addresses of national, state, and local LP officials.

World Wide Web

The World Wide Web (WWW) is another way information is made available for online users, on an increasing number of systems. With mailing lists and newsgroups, information is actively "broadcast" across the net, causing copies to be created in individuals' mailboxes or Usenet storage areas on many different systems. In contrast, the Web allows users all around the world to read text—and even see pictures and hear sounds—that has been set up in collections of "pages" stored by organizations of all kinds on their own computers (or on computers belonging to an Internet service provider).

The amount of information available through the Web is potentially unlimited. Thousands of sites are coming online every month, and the amount of material is not restricted by the size of any one system, since every computer that is a part of the Web brings its own disk storage capacity with it. Information need only be copied to your computer when you actually want to look at a particular page.

Commercial product information, catalogs, technical manuals, whole archives of back issues of newspapers, publications of government agencies, court records, existing laws and pending legislation, libraries of maps, pictures, and music, scientific databases, bibliographies, and just about anything else that can be made available through a computer is becoming part of this Web.

Best of all, you don't need to learn a new "computer language" or be a professional librarian to find this information. The software through which users access the Web provides an interface with which you probably will be familiar already. There are programs available for MS Windows, the Mac, and other systems. If you are used to using a system that lets you "point and click" with a mouse, that's all you will have to do to get information through the Web.

Each page in the Web typically contains many "links" to other pages containing related information, so that related information is interconnected. Pointing and clicking on a link brings you to a new page. More or less everything is interconnected in some way—that's why it is called a "Web".

Among the organizations providing material through the Web are the national LP and several of its state affiliates. Users can read our introductory brochures, browse through our Platform, find out who is running for office, and, in some places, even get an up-to-date schedule of local meetings. Articles from LP NEWS are now available through the Web, as are articles from the LP of California newsletter. Web users can even request an LP info packet simply by entering their name and address on a special page.

Pages in the Web are identified by another kind of address, called a URL (Uniform Resource Locator). The most common form starts with "http://", followed by some names which refer to a computer, a directory, and a file. For example, the "home

page" for the LP, a convenient place from that you can easily get to all of the LP pages, has a URL of: "http://www.lp.org/lp/".

As with e-mail addresses, you must enter all the characters and symbols exactly right for it to work. But don't worry—you don't have to do this very often. Once you have located a page on some topic, you can usually get to just about anything else on a related topic simply by pointing and clicking. In addition, a spontaneous order of various catalogs and indexes, created and maintained by editors around the world, has sprung into existence to let you find interesting pages by subject, geographical location, and other criteria.

In addition to gaining information from the party, Libertarians will find that the Web is a useful way of getting other information that can help in their political activism. Extensive collections of information on subjects such as gun laws, privacy, and the U.S. Constitution are available through the Web—many assembled and cataloged by libertarians. And, of course, legal information and newspaper archives can be put to use in many political activities.

Files

Another common use of computer networks is to "download" files to your computer for local use. Such files may contain

text (e.g., the LP Platform) or software (e.g., a computerized interactive version of "the world's smallest political quiz").

On the Internet, many libraries of files are available through "anonymous FTP" (File Transfer Protocol) to anyone else on the Internet who wants to make a copy of them. Commercial online services and most BBSs have their own libraries of files.

These libraries vary in size. There are copies of the more common files in many different libraries, but often they are under different names because different systems have different naming requirements. Programs used to access the World Wide Web also can be used to find files on the Internet; these, along with an earlier program called "Gopher," have made locating and downloading such files much easier than in the past.

Getting Online

How can you get access to the kinds of resources described here? Many Libertarians may have access already, but may not realize it. If you are using e-mail now at your office, you probably can use it to reach other Libertarian activists, and to participate in mailing lists. Many company and school networks also provide access to Usenet, and an increasing number are providing access to the Web.

If you don't already have access through

your business or school (or if your employer has a policy that office computers are to be used only for business purposes), you have many options to get personally connected to the net. In many cases, a single access option—a commercial provider or BBS—will give you everything you need to send e-mail to anyone and to use the other facilities described above.

Equipment needed for any of these options is a personal computer (just about any recent-model Mac or Windows-compatible machine will provide all the capabilities required for all the services mentioned here; even older models will work to provide basic access), with a modem. The faster the modem the better. If you are buying a new one, don't bother with anything less than 14400 bps (bits per second), as these are now available at discount stores and mail-order houses for less than \$100.

Commercial Internet Service Providers

A fast-growing industry is now making full access to the Internet available to individuals all across the country. Some companies provide service nationally, others only in limited areas. The market in some areas is very competitive, and prices and service options are always changing, so

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LP e-mail directory

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Region 7	Robert Franke	
Region 8	Joe Barnett	70252.2400@compuserve.com
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Region 2 alt	Terry Savage	72010.3252@compuserve.com
	Eric Lund	eslund@aol.com

Region 3 alt	Steve Linnabary	
Region 4 alt	Scott Benson	
Region 5 alt	Jesse Markowitz	jesse@filetek.com
Region 6 alt	vacant	
Region 7 alt	Jeanne Bojarski	
Region 8 alt	Tom Paswater	

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Online

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check the advertisements in computer magazines and local newspapers, or talk with others in your area who are already online to find the best deals.

Consumer-Oriented Online Services

The leading consumer-oriented services like CompuServe and America Online (AOL) can be a good choice, especially for new computer users and for people who are interested in some of the other features they provide, such as online shopping and travel services. Other companies providing similar services nationally include Prodigy and Delphi.

These services all provide e-mail (including participation in mailing lists) and Usenet access, and most are either in the process of making the Web available to their customers now or are planning to do so in the near future.

In addition to the discussion facilities

mentioned above, most such services also provide separate discussion facilities (available only to customers of that particular service) for political and other topics. Although these do not reach as many people as Internet mailing lists and Usenet newsgroups, they are sometimes "friendlier" and can provide an opportunity for outreach to fellow customers who may be looking for information about libertarianism and the LP.

In many cases these are combined with file libraries and other features to provide a convenient central access point for information on a particular topic. For an example, see the accompanying article describing the Libertarian Forum on AOL.

BBSs

The boundary between "bulletin board systems" and other online service providers has become rather blurred lately. There really isn't any difference between a large,

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Bulletin Board Systems (BBSs)

The following are some BBSs which provide either the Fidonet LIBERTY echo or the libernet and libernet-d mailing lists in public message areas for their users. This list is not complete. In addition, other BBSs may allow subscription to mailing lists by individual users.

System Name	Phone Number	Location
Altered Illusions	908-329-3216	Dayton, NJ
AMNet	202-789-2527	Washington, DC
Beginner's	713-666-4644	Bellaire, TX
Bifrost	301-779-9381	Mt. Ranier, MD
Big Blue	407-679-6238	Orlando, FL
Big Queue	603-429-2419	Litchfield, NH
Brass Cannon	602-639-1039	Cottonwood, AZ
Cellar	610-539-3043	Philadelphia, PA
Common Sense	510-713-7336	Newark, CA
CRIMP	313-582-3404	Dearborn, MI
Dan's Den	318-424-9260	Shreveport, LA
Dehnbases Rainbow	415-857-1209	Palo Alto, CA
Easy Does It	603-228-0705	Bow, NH
Electronic Educator	206-837-3299	Washougal, WA
Emerogronican	203-721-0706	Wethersfield, CT
FLOTOM	512-282-3941	Austin, TX
Fox Den	203-223-5217	New Britain, CT
Governed Anarchy	510-226-6656	Fremont, CA
Houston Libertarian	713-728-2199	Houston, TX
IBECC/TeleStar	303-426-1866	Adams Co., CO
Imad-ad-Dean	301-656-4714	Bethesda, MD
Keithley Komputer Korner	206-752-8968	Tacoma, WA
Knowledge Resource	303-678-8439	Longmont, CO
Libertarian	203-257-1960	Wethersfield, CT
Liberty	512-462-1776	Austin, TX
Liberty	714-996-7777	Orange Co., CA
Liberty Bell	408-243-1933	San Jose, CA
Minnesota Libertarian	612-938-3702	Hopkins, MN
OK Corral	303-832-4197	Denver, CO
Oregon Desert	503-475-3056	Madras, OR
Paper Man	713-869-5310	Houston, TX
Paul Revere Network	408-281-0725	San Jose, CA
Pinnacle Club	812-963-9139	Evansville, IN
Purgatoire	719-846-0140	Trinidad, CO
Quiet Revolution	603-753-9716	Penacook, NH
RFR Communications	803-663-4856	Warrenville, SC
Rifle Range	914-452-4753	Poughkeepsie, NY
Schrodinger's Catbox	803-652-3760	New Ellenton, SC
Screaming Slave	203-643-1159	Manchester, CT
Soapbox	919-387-1152	Cary, NC
Space/Time Continuum	206-536-1528	Tacoma, WA
Synthesis	617-784-2773	Sharon, MA
2" x 4"	914-271-9407	Croton, NY
Union Lakeside	609-825-6057	Millville, NJ
World Peace	303-449-3616	Boulder, CO

Libertarian mailing lists

• Libernet and Libernet-D

Libernet is an international mailing list for news and announcements of interest to libertarians. Libernet-D is a companion list for debate and discussion.

(Subscription information: libernet-request@dartmouth.edu)

• LPUS

A mailing list for discussion of Libertarian Party business at the national level, primarily of interest to party officers, staff, and volunteers.

(Subscriptions: lpus-request@dehnbases.fidonet.org)

• Regional, State, and Local Lists

Canada

VILA@clipper.uvic.ca

subscriptions: majordomo@clipper.uvic.ca

U.S. - California (statewide)

ca-liberty@shell.portal.com

subscriptions: majordomo@shell.portal.com

U.S. - California (statewide) - LP business

lpc@dehnbases.fidonet.org

subscriptions: lpc-request@dehnbases.fidonet.org

U.S. - California - Orange County - LP business

LPOC@kaiwan.com

subscriptions: listserv@kaiwan.com

U.S. - California - San Diego

sdip@lumina.ucsd.edu

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U.S. - Wisconsin - LP business

subscriptions: rhess@macc.wisc.edu

• Special Interest Mailing Lists

(Note: Only lists specifically for libertarians interested in some topic are included here.)

Beer Lovers and Brewers (Libertarian Beer Digest)

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subscriptions: liberty-request@synchro.com

Campus Groups (Libertarian Student Club E-Mail Network)

libclubs@lumina.ucsd.edu

subscriptions: mcpherso@lumina.ucsd.edu

Libertarian forum available on AOL

By JIM MERRITT

More and more these days, you hear the word "Libertarian" in conversation or on the electronic media, or see it in print media. Sometimes, this refers to someone who subscribes to the philosophy of libertarianism, but more frequently it refers to a member or candidate of the LP.

In the Libertarian Party Forum on America Online, you can find out more about the LP: its history, its candidates, its platform and goals, how to contact its national or local organizations, what Libertarians are doing to make a difference in your area, and much more.

The forum provides three major services:

1. Text article collections.

These are collections of articles that I gather from a variety of sources, then repost here so that you can get a better idea of what the national, state, and local Libertarian Party organizations are doing. For the most part, the articles posted here are official announcements or press releases of Libertarian Party organizations.

There are two collections at present:

- Libertarian Press Releases - Restricted to press releases and official documents or news of the national Libertarian Party.

- State & Local Announcements - Press releases, meeting announcements/minutes, event publicity, regional contact lists, and other information about the Libertarian Party at the state and local level. If you've been looking for Libertarians in your area, come here to see who they are, what they're doing, and how to contact them. (If you represent a local Libertarian Party organization, feel free to send me your official party announcements, for posting in this

Online

continued from page 12

for-profit "BBS" and the smaller "commercial online services".

But smaller BBSs, many of which still provide access at no charge, are another option for the Libertarian who wants to get online at minimum cost. Even many small BBSs now provide access to Internet e-mail. Quite a few provide access to Usenet, although the selection of newsgroups is often very limited, generally to topics that match the specialties of the system. On Fidonet—a network of BBSs—users of systems that carry the "LIBERTY echo" [see box] have access to the same messages seen by subscribers to the libernet and libernet-d mailing lists.

If you happen to live near a BBS that is politically oriented and you already have a computer and a modem, you may find that you can get all the access you need to be an "online libertarian activist" without having to spend a penny.

In some cities "freenets" or "community networks" also offer network services at no charge. Again, the distinction between these and "BBSs" is becoming increasingly obsolete.

Joe Dehn is a former national LP secretary and has been involved with computer networks and e-mail for more than 20 years. He currently manages various LP-related online resources, including the party's WWW site.

collection.)

2. The Libertarian Library.

Contains the full party platform and program, archives of press releases, and other info. Eventually, I hope to offer software and data that will help Libertarian organizations to be more effective in their outreach and administrative efforts.

3. "Message Board" postings.

From time to time, I also will repost "unofficial" news and announcements from Libertarians or libertarian-oriented groups to the Libertarian Forum message board

and/or several message boards in the main Capital Connection area. Such announcements are passed along more or less as I find them, for your information or entertainment. In particular, I DO NOT make the same effort to verify postings in the message boards as I do for the articles that I post in the article collections.

The Libertarian Forum's own message board, established in the fall of 1994, offers you a chance to speak directly with fellow Libertarians, and to post late-breaking news or announcements immediately. Especially

if you are on the staff of an LP campaign organization, or local party, I encourage you to post last-minute rally notices, media alerts, and other information about your candidate and the campaign, or events sponsored by your local party, directly to the message board. I encourage everyone to scan the message board for such late-breaking items on a regular basis.

Once you access AOL, you can get to the Libertarian Forum by employing the special fast-access keyword, "libertarian." Jim Merritt is the forum host.

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Health care reform: how FDA delays on one drug cost over 30,000 American lives. . . how medical licensing destroyed most black medical schools . . . how independent drug certification can replace government bureaucracies.

The environment: How sovereign immunity helped to create Love Canal and other environment disasters. . . how our tax dollars subsidize logging and the destruction of national forests. . . why victims of atomic testing can't recover damages.

Education: How public education has reduced literacy and fosters violence . . . how imaginary Quest free market schools would work. So compelling that people frequently call Dr. Ruwart to ask how they can enroll their children.

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Talking points

Welfare reform, ID cards, religion, and more

Cliches and uninformed statements are easy to dismiss as senseless prescriptions from political outcasts and fringe ideologues. Libertarian advocates—be they candidates, state officers, speakers, pamphlet writers, or other spokespersons—may gain credibility for Libertarian ideas by presenting facts and quoting expert opinion that bolster LP positions. This column will provide the ammunition you can use to confound the skeptics and impress those searching for answers by citing mainstream publications and recognized opinion leaders (for and against individual liberty). Send in your submissions, with a clipping to verify the statement and the source, for inclusion in future issues of the NEWS.

Issue: Welfare reform

It seems that the political earthquake that brought Republican control to both houses of the U.S. Congress will not produce a change of comparable magnitude in the welfare system. Despite suggestions to the contrary in the Contract With America, what the GOP plans to do with the welfare system amounts to little more than business as usual:

"If an authentic revolution starts with a bang, the Republican welfare-reform proposal, for example, is the squirt of a water pistol. It consolidates 10 welfare programs into one, renames a few others, and changes the level of administration. Please. That's the kind of 'management' for which Democrats are famous. . .

"The Republican proposal does nothing to reverse the relentless march of welfarism. Means-tested programs will total \$350 billion this year, the most in history. If the welfare state were slashed to its 1980 levels, in real terms, it would require cuts of 71 cents on the welfare dollar. To take us back to Lyndon Johnson's time would require welfare cuts of 98 cents on the dollar. The Republican leadership and its advisers aren't even considering this. They do not propose to cut programs. As Republicans have done for 40 years, they are preparing to consolidate the other party's socialist advances. . .

"For 12 years, the Republicans claimed they couldn't cut government because they didn't control Congress. Now we hear they can't cut government because they don't control the White House. This is excuse-making. . .

"The problem with Democrats is their philosophy of government. The problem with Republicans is hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is a more serious sin and carries with it a more serious punishment."

Llewellyn H. Rockwell Jr., president of the Ludwig von Mises Institute, in Insight, Jan. 2, 1995.

Issue: National ID cards

The U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform has proposed, as a measure to control illegal immigration, that U.S. citizens be issued identification cards linked to a national worker registry. This profoundly anti-libertarian proposal has received considerable support from both sides of the political spectrum, but it is neverthe-

Libertarian talking points

Charles D. Poe
Editor

less a very bad idea, as some commentators have pointed out:

"Think the federal government already knows too much about your private life? Hang on. The granddaddy of all privacy invasions—a national ID card—is marching onto Capitol Hill.

"Startling numbers of Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives, are embracing variations of the identity card—all in the name of immigration reform. They contend the cards could keep illegal immigrants out of American jobs by requiring potential bosses to use the cards and accompanying national database to verify citizenship. . .

"Civil rights organizations and advocates for Asians, Hispanics, and other minorities believe the national ID cards would mushroom such incidents of harassment—by police, immigration officials, border guards, and any xenophobic authority figure who wants to hassle someone who looks or sounds 'foreign.'"

"Even if true, what's the harm if law-abiding citizens have a card to clear them on the spot? Fear of constant harassment is the wrong. Having to carry a card to guarantee your freedom is not what the Founding Fathers had in mind.

"Then there's the price tag. Most plans on Capitol Hill—and there are dozens in various bills—require all U.S. citizens, not just recent immigrants, to get cards. Production costs for those plus a supporting computer database are estimated conservatively at \$2.5 billion by the Social Security Administration. More elaborate systems could top \$6 billion or more. . .

"National ID cards are an old idea and a bad idea. The last thing the federal government needs is another peephole on personal privacy that ends up costing U.S. taxpayers more money than it saves."

"Our View," USA Today, July 15, 1994.

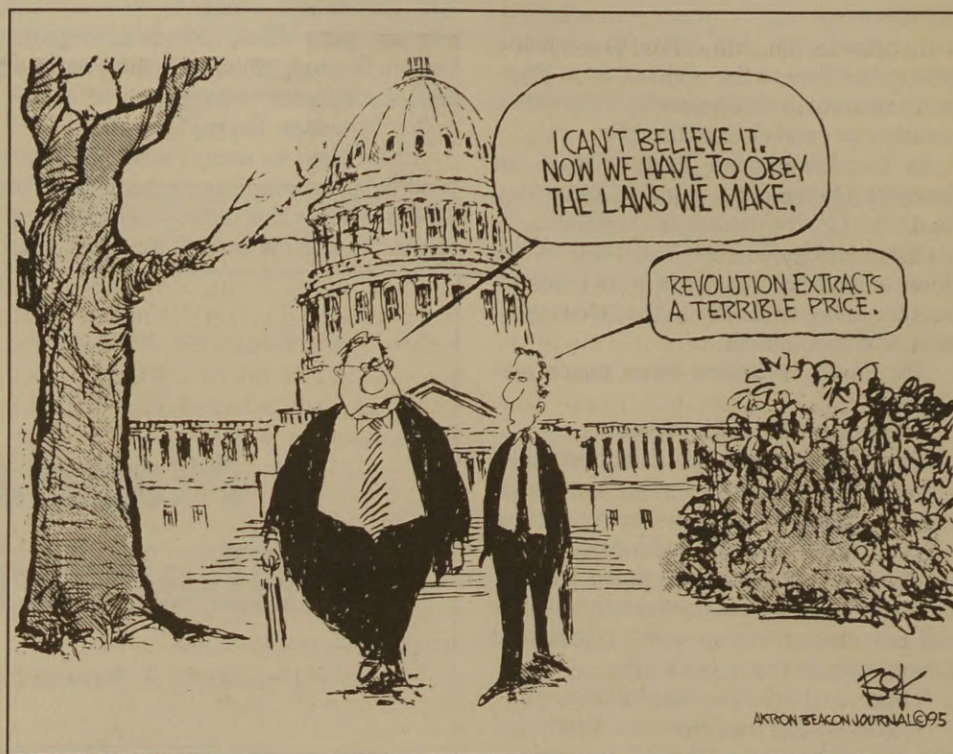
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"It sounds simple—but the fact is it could become a costly, bureaucratic nightmare that would burden employers and employees alike.

"In order to work at all, the registry would require complete and accurate information on all 200 million Americans over 15. But the Social Security Administration admits that its records aren't good enough to be used reliably for that purpose. SSA estimates that correcting errors in its database would cost \$122 million initially and \$30 million annually. And Immigration and Naturalization Service records are in even worse shape.

"And the database isn't the only problem.

"One way or another, the system would require that every person carry a new, tamper-proof identity card. Rep. Anthony Beilenson, D-CA, introduced a bill to that effect last week, but he didn't mention what



it would cost: \$3 billion to \$6 billion, according to the deputy administrator of Social Security in testimony to Congress last year.

"Employers also could face steep compliance costs—essentially an unfunded congressional mandate on business—if they need special equipment to access the registry. . .

"Some advocates suggest the system will work like credit-card charge verifications do now. But a federal bureaucracy can't replicate Visa and MasterCard, which are heavily decentralized operations relying on a combined 41,000 banks worldwide to issue cards and monitor transactions. American Express handles all its own transactions but needs 64,000 workers to keep track of them. This is no time to add even a fraction of that to the federal payroll."

"Counterpoints," Linda Chavez, in USA Today, Jan. 25, 1995.

Issue: Slippery slope

Some laws that diminish individual freedom may seem at first glance to diminish it so little that no great harm is likely to be done. Such a law is, however, quite often merely the initial stage of a process in which a mildly intrusive law will gradually evolve into a very intrusive one. When confronted with the coercive power of government, freedom does indeed rest on a slippery slope—as the following examples illustrate:

"• The Fair Standards Act of 1938. Originally, this law that set minimum wages and other workplace rules applied only to large businesses engaged in producing goods for 'interstate commerce.' Then, in 1961, Congress significantly widened the act by expanding the definition to any 'commerce' for firms with an annual sales volume of \$1 million or more. In 1966, this threshold began coming down: \$500,000, then \$250,000, then \$225,000, then \$200,000, and by Jan. 1, 1977, zero. The process took a generation, but small business was eventually swallowed up whole.

"In 1989, Congress 'restored' the sales volume threshold to \$50,000 (not adjusted for inflation), but added a 'preservation' clause denying the relief to all enterprises subject to the act prior to 1989, regardless of size. Alas, one never does go back.

"• The Civil Rights Act of 1964. Small business was first exempted to avoid ruinous litigation. The initial coverage applied to employers of 100 or more, then 75, then 50, and finally 25 or more employees. Then in 1991, President Bush agreed to sign a civil rights bill removing the limit on damage awards, but only if the bill was limited to 'race-based' claims. But a deal is never really permanent in Washington. The ink is barely dry and Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-MA, has made his move to expand unlimited damage awards to 'all victims' of discrimination for large and small employers (today 15 or more employees puts you in the litigation lottery).

"• The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Coverage began at 25 employees, but on July 26 [1994] the threshold [became] 15, making tens of thousands of small businesses liable to legal action and damages under the broad and difficult to understand law."

Richard B. Berman, executive director of the Employment Policies Institute, in Houston Chronicle, July 8, 1994.

Issue: Religion

Libertarianism is often accused, especially by conservatives, of having no spiritual dimension and of treating human beings as if they interact with each other on the basis of nothing more than egocentric economic calculations. Although it may appear to some on the political right that the libertarian perspective fails to accommodate religion, it is in fact libertarianism's emphasis on minimal government and individual freedom that offers the greatest degree of protection to those with strongly held religious beliefs:

see **Talking points** on page 15

Service with a smile

Dave offers advice for many happy returns

Income-tax-filing time: For Person A, it's a nightmare; yet for Person B, it's no big deal. What's the difference?

Simple: Person B died in 1993. This is the kind of sound tax planning that can prevent numerous headaches down the road.

Unfortunately, those of you who foolishly elected to continue living are going to have to file tax returns this year. That is the bad news. The good news is that the IRS is working hard to make its tax forms more "user-friendly." For example, I have here the old and new versions of Form 5213, sent to me by alert taxpayer Katie Tibbits. The two forms are identical except for the titles. The old version is titled:

Election To Postpone Determination As To Whether The Presumption That An Activity Is Engaged In For Profit Activities.

What a bunch of gobbledygook! Fortunately, the folks who work at today's IRS (motto: "We're Human Beings Just Like You, Except We Breathe Via Gills") no longer tolerate this kind of confusing prose. They have thoughtfully revised Form 5213, so that it's now entitled:

Election To Postpone Determination As To Whether The Presumption Applies That An Activity Is Engaged In For Profit.

That certainly clears THAT up! I think all of us taxpayers should express our gratitude by filing Form 5213 this year as many times as is humanly possible.

Tibbits also sent me Form 8328, which



On the light side

Dave Barry
Columnist

was named by the IRS's state-of-the-art Random Noun Generator: It's called "Carryforward Election Of Unused Private Activity Bond Volume Cap." The instructions do not give any clear indication as to what this form is for, except that it has something to do with docks and wharves. My advice to you is, if you had anything whatsoever to do with a dock or wharf in 1994, including simply walking on one, you should flee to the Amazon rain forest immediately, because trust me, you do not want to mess with Form 8328. My eyeballs are bleeding just from looking at it.

Most taxpayers, however, are mainly concerned with Form 1040. The average time required to complete and file this form is about 11 hours, according to an IRS study of average taxpayers on the Planet Zeembo. You will probably need more like a month, not counting the time required to forge receipts. To help you with this annual chore, I've prepared the following:

ANSWERS TO COMMON TAXPAYER QUESTIONS

Q: Who is the current IRS commissioner, and is he or she a wacky dude or dudette?

A: Her name is Margaret Milner

Talking points

continued from page 14

"(M)any of the greatest threats to religious liberty stem from the insufficient protection of individual liberty in economic affairs. For example, the Supreme Court held in *Presiding Bishop of the Church of Latter-Day Saints v. Amos* (1987) that the state could exempt, in whole or part, religious institutions from the employment discrimination laws. In a minimal state, such a question would never arise because there would [be] no antidiscrimination laws to begin with.

"Note also that nothing in Amos requires the state to honor that religious exemption. Let the political winds change, and the state could require that everyone from janitors to teachers to high priests be hired regardless of their religious beliefs. Freedom of association once offered an impregnable barrier to government action; that is not necessarily so under today's squishy balancing tests. So it is no surprise that *United States v. Lee* (1987) meekly deferred to Congress when it imposed Social Security taxes on the Amish, who for religious reasons would not accept benefits.

Richard A. Epstein, professor of law at the University of Chicago, in *The Wall Street Journal*, July 27, 1994.

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"Tax-and-spend is not just an economic issue. The more government takes from your wallet, the more it takes from your bill of rights down the line.

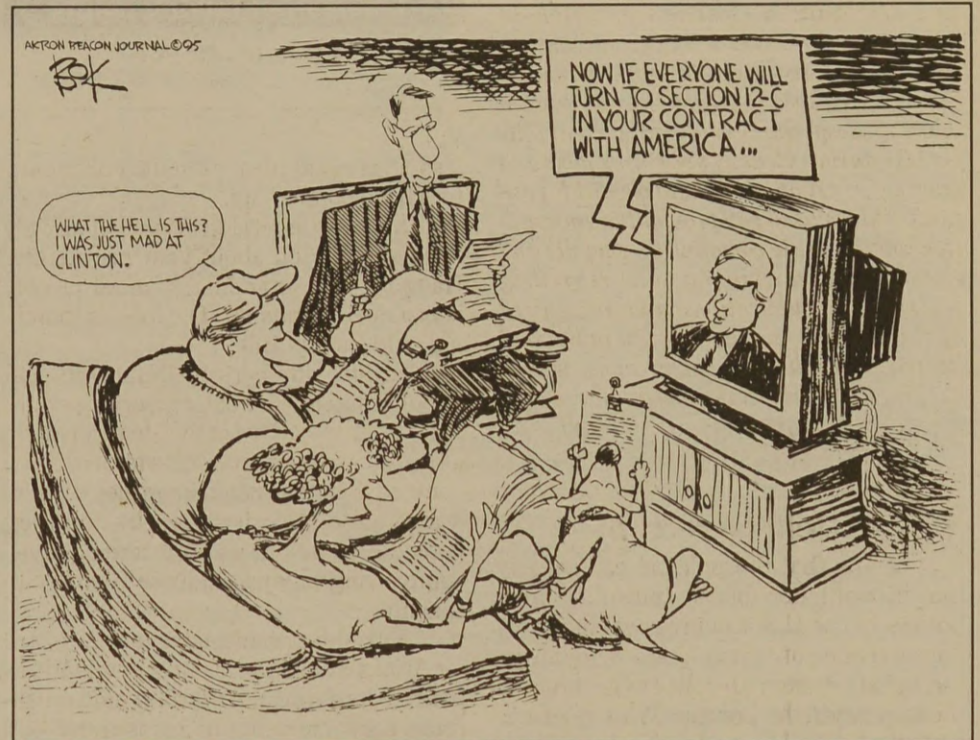
"So far as religion goes, the arithmetic is carved in granite, in the establishment clause of the First Amendment. Once government occupies education, for example, that much space, that many teachers, that many hours of the day are barred from entanglement with religion. When Ira Magaziner nationalizes health care, the ethics of abortion get nationalized, too; religious teachings may not influence the debate, for that might 'establish' Catholicism over atheism. The National Endowment for the Arts can fund the desecration of a crucifix in the name of art; it could never fund the hallowing of anything in the name of the Almighty. The more the government sphere expands, the more the sacred contracts: It's as simple as that."

Peter Huber, senior fellow of Manhattan Institute, in *Forbes*, Jan. 16, 1995.

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Thanks to the following for clippings used this month: Dave Walter, West Chester, PA; Scott Shreckhise, Roanoke, VA; and Research Etc., Princeton, LA.

GOLD for the people. Minted gold coins, patriot multi-level marketing plan, \$60 to start - unique. Details: Yanaar Jane Lee, (707) 865-2668; fax (707) 865-2578; P.O. Box 397; Monte Rio, CA 95426.



Richardson, and she surely is. Check out her "Dear Taxpayer" letter on page 3 of the Form 1040 instruction package, wherein she states that the IRS has been recognized as "a leader among government agencies in customer service."

Q: What is that comparable to?

A: That is comparable to stating that "cement is a leader among construction materials for use as a dessert topping."

Q: Does Margaret make any other comical statements in her letter?

A: Yes. She states: "I want you to know that the 'S' in IRS represents a commitment to serve you."

Q: What does the "R" represent?

A: It represents "a tiny room with a hard chair where we grill randomly selected taxpayers until they break down and tell us about their wharves?"

Q: How will the O.J. Simpson case affect my 1994 tax returns?

A: You're going to have to chip in a little extra to help offset the estimated \$147 million business deduction that the defense team is claiming for suits.

Q: Have you noticed that, all of a sudden, manufacturers are advertising baking soda as a Miracle Ingredient in just about every product you buy, including tires?

A: You are required to keep detailed records of this.

Q: Did several alert readers send you a story from the Jan. 20 issue of the Easton, PA *Express-Times* concerning a fascinating highway accident?

A: Yes. The story begins: "A truck carry-

ing 40,000 pounds of frozen cow lungs slated to become dog food in France wrecked on Route 31 early Thursday." There's also a photograph, captioned: "A worker kicks some of the 20 tons of frozen cow lungs that spilled from his truck."

Q: You are making this up.

A: No.

Q: Why did the worker kick some of the frozen cow lungs?

A: Perhaps he did not have time to kick them all.

Q: Is there a specific tax form for this situation?

A: Of course. It is Form 592038-MOO. You are required to file this form if, during the 1994 tax year, you, or anyone you know, for any reason, owned a dog.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

In following the tax advice outlined above, please bear two things in mind:

1. I am NOT a Certified Public Accountant. I am the U.S. Treasury secretary.

2. Our tax laws are constantly changing as our elected representatives seek new ways to insure that whatever tax advice we receive is incorrect. Even as you read these words, Congress is considering a bill that would require every 15th word in the tax code to rhyme with "uvula." So if you have ANY doubt about a tax decision, pick up the phone and call IRS Commissioner Richardson directly. She won't mind. After all, the "I" in IRS stands for "I have a terrific sense of humor." I hope.

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Letters

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Essence

The point of David Nolan's article was well-taken, and most of it was right on target; however, his proposal for a tax on land was ridiculous. Apparently among his criteria for "true" libertarianism is a complete disregard for real property rights.

Mr. Nolan not only seems to agree with the government's power of eminent domain, he'd bestow that power onto every individual in the country. The idea that anyone, so long as he gives you your self-assessed value of it, could force you off your land (which I assume is Nolan's way of keeping everyone from assessing their own land as worth \$1, and sending in a nickel to Uncle Sam) is the exact opposite of Libertarian values. What if you don't WANT to sell, at any price? Do you have to assess it beyond anyone's possible reach, and then pay enormous taxes on it? Are those who love their land the most going to be taxed the most for it? Nolan is against an "income" tax; is he proposing a "love" tax?

Apparently Mr. Nolan's first principle, "You Own Yourself", ONLY applies to yourself — everything else is up for grabs.

Ted Slampyak

CompuServe: 76551,65

David Nolan responds:

All forms of taxation are of course nothing more than legalized extortion, and as a Libertarian, I am opposed to them all.

Staying in touch

Letters to the editor



However, I am not opposed to them all equally, and the point of my necessarily brief article was that in today's political context, opposition to any form of income tax is a "must" to qualify as even a "small-" libertarian. No tax is good, but some are less bad than others. My statement that a self-assessed land tax is the least odious tax was not meant as endorsement of that type of taxation. . . or any other.

MA ballot access

As you no doubt know by now, the Massachusetts LP is now legally a political party. This will allow us to place our presidential candidates on the 1996 ballot with little more than the stroke of a pen.

The groundwork for this success was laid in 1989 and 1990 with 1990's Fair Ballot Access Initiative. While this was formulated and supported by a number of other groups, without whom success would have been impossible, and was aided by some of the best petitioners you'll ever meet, the LPM put in by far most of the money and effort to make it happen.

The Committee for Fair Ballot Access also received substantial input and contributions from Libertarians around the

country who knew what was at stake. Their effort has already easily paid for itself in saved LP petitioning costs in 1992 and 1994. It also has had a noticeable effect in easing the gathering of signatures for initiatives and referenda. And according to Miriam Luce, one of our petitioners in 1989, this was her first active involvement in politics. So we succeeded many times over. For the help that made this all possible, I remain grateful.

But this success cost more than we raised at the time. A lot more. Over \$50,000 more. Since I hold the bulk of this debt, and since holding it has already cost me far more, I'm going to make a somewhat negotiable offer: If anyone can help me get this debt paid off by the end of June, you can have my only handwritten original account of the time when, as a young boy, I advised some adults on how to get a certain truck unstuck from under a bridge. I am looking to unload some records relating to both the initiative and my LP-topping 1988 congressional campaign.

To make arrangements for paying the whole debt, contact accountant Walter Ziobro at 617-451-1978; if there's any negotiating to be done by credible fundraisers, he knows how to reach me.

To send contributions, make personal checks payable to: The Committee for Fair Ballot Access, P.O. Box 2557, Boston, MA 02208.

T. David Hudson
Massachusetts

Rothbard

In the course of recent research, I was able to learn precisely when Murray Rothbard joined the Libertarian Party. It was the weekend of March 30-April 1, 1973, at the convention of the New York State Libertarian Party.

Bill Evers
Palo Alto, Calif.

Misplaced blame

The January issue of the NEWS "Talking points" section had an article "Issue: Government spending and efficiency" which connected the party of the administration with the amount of spending and taxes. How can this appear in our paper? Do we not understand that the Congress, not the administration, passes the taxing and spending laws? And do we not know that during the term of the study the Democrats controlled the Congress the vast majority of the time? I do not think we should attempt to advance our cause

Robert Goodman
Bronx, NY

Amendment

Here is an idea for a constitutional amendment that would go a long way
see **Letters** on page 19



by confusing people about the way the government functions.

Dave Brask
CompuServe: 71730,1370

Balanced coverage

L. Neil Smith to the contrary (March 1995 NEWS), the balance-the-budget constitutional amendment now before Congress has a significant tax-increase-limitation provision. A bill to increase taxes will require a majority roll call vote of each chamber, not just a majority of a quorum. In view of how many legislators, even among those physically present, are "absent" for key votes, this requirement is heftier than it may at first appear. Though not as high a hurdle as the 3/5 of a roll call which has sometimes been proposed, the roll call requirement is tougher than the tax limitation provision of the balanced budget amendment which has been most often proposed by the National Taxpayers Union. The NTU's most common version allowed for tax revenues to increase with inflation; increases on top of that could be authorized by a roll call vote.

Even if the present amendment doesn't get enacted, Republicans in Congress deserve credit for fulfilling that portion of the Contract With America. Didn't NTU (including many of us in this party) deserve credit for once pushing us very close to a constitutional convention to consider their slightly weaker amendment? Granted, NTU's amendment was to have taken effect in less than the seven years now contemplated, but if we'd gotten this amendment through then, they'd've been in effect by now.

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SOME EXCERPTS FROM THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

"As a demonstration of the G.O.P.'s fealty to the new spirit of liberty and freedom, the Republican House leaders wasted no time in addressing the more egregious errors of last year's crime bill, namely, that it still takes too long to kill people and randomly search their houses."

"This groundswell of opposition [to smoking] rests on the important constitutional principle that people who do not smoke outnumber those who do."

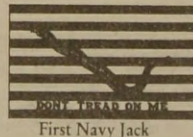
"Whenever President Clinton speaks of 'expanding' the middle class, we always get the queasy feeling that he does not necessarily mean lifting the poor up into it."

PLANET MORON is a humor rag for lovers of freedom, champions of liberty and other misfits of modern American society.

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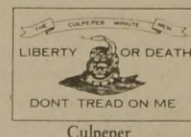
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Libertarian Party NEWS

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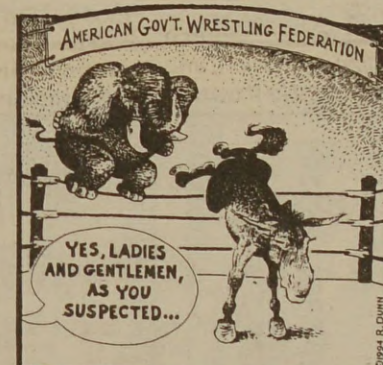
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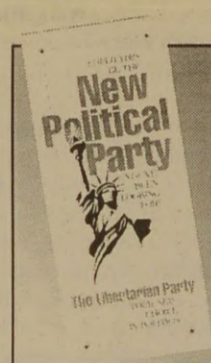
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■ **Is This the New Political Party You've Been Looking For?** Brochure, 2-color (violet & black). New introductory brochure, giving general overview of the Libertarian Party.

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■ **LP Platform.** 24 pages, dark purple ink. The 1994 platform of the LP, with the "official" party positions on individual rights and civil order, trade, the economy, domestic concerns, and foreign affairs. **Cost:** Sample: \$1 or \$50 for 100

■ **LP Fact Sheets:** 2-page LP history (political highlights from 1971 to 1993) and 2-page bibliography (over 150 books about Libertarianism). Sold as a set only. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$10 for 100

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Letters

continued from page 16

toward bringing about a truly Libertarian public policy in this country: "No person shall be convicted of a crime in any public civilian court of law within the U.S., unless the action for which such person is convicted constitutes a perpetration of force or fraud against another person or the property thereof." Doesn't it sound like a nice addition to the Bill of Rights?

Such an amendment would help get rid of inanities like gun control, legislated morality, and excessive regulation of various major industries including automobile manufacturing and health care. It would also allow private companies to engage in such trades as carrying first-class mail and coining money backed by precious commodities. Finally, sensitive issues having to do with the environment, race and gender relations, and product quality and safety would be handled only through civil law.

This kind of amendment would really help bring about the disintegration of the present two-party system, which is nothing but a choice between hard-line Marxism on public economic issues and hard-line Fundamentalism on private personal issues.

William L. Foster
Fairfax, VA

The NEWS

I consider the March 1995 edition of the NEWS to be one of the best I have read to date. The articles present an excellent mix of the libertarian philosophy, the current issues, and the application of the libertarian philosophy to the current issues. I believe this combination is essential to attract new members. Basic libertarian principles should be repeated in print over and over again, even to the point of being outlined in every copy of the NEWS.

Articles that explain how these principles can be applied to current issues help make a transition from philosophy to action. The current state of affairs in government proves that principles without action, and action without principles, are equally objectionable. Editions of the NEWS like that of March 1995 will attract new members dedicated to action based on principles.

Frederick C. Gast
Hazelton, PA

One lesson

I would like to urge your readers around the country to make it a goal to get copies of "Libertarianism in One Lesson," by David Bergland, into their local city, county, and university libraries.

When I first began looking into the Libertarian Party about a year ago I was frustrated to find very little information available in local libraries. I ended up purchasing a copy of "Libertarianism in One Lesson" through LPHQ and liked what I read. So I purchased five more copies (\$25 total) to donate and give away.

I am sure there are other titles that provide a good introduction to libertarianism, and we need to see that they too get into libraries. Let's make sure that as interest in the Libertarian Party grows, there are library materials to support the interest.

Sarah Kalagian
Seattle, WA

Tax law

Irwin Schiff criticized me (Feb. 1995

NEWS) for not explaining how he "misstated" two Supreme Court decisions concerning income taxes. His criticism is well-founded; the fault, however, is not mine as my letter included such an explanation. Rather, the problem was that the NEWS published my letter without the explanation.

In his earlier letter, Mr. Schiff stated that the Supreme Court held in *Brushaber v. Union Pacific R.R. Co.*, 240 U.S. 1, 36 S. Ct. 236 (1916), that the 16th Amendment "1) did not amend the Constitution; 2) gave the government no new taxing power; and 3) merely established the income tax as an excise tax."

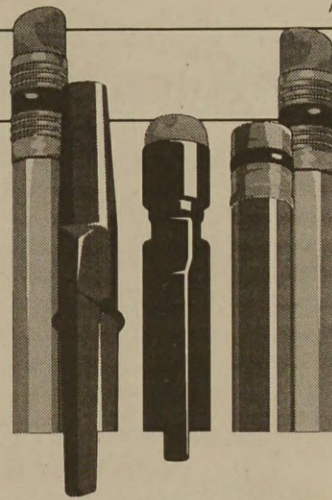
The first statement is clearly self-negating: as it was an "amendment," the 16th Amendment plainly amended the Constitution. In the words of the Supreme Court: "the whole purpose of the Amendment was to relieve all income taxes when imposed from apportionment from a consideration of the source whence the income was derived." 36 S. Ct. at 241. The significance of this point is that the Court had previously held unconstitutional a tax on income from "accumulations of property," 36 S. Ct. at 241, since such a tax was, "in a constitutional sense," a "direct" tax—as it "burden[ed] the property from which the income was derived"—and Congress had not, as required by the Constitution, apportioned it.

That explanation leads directly to the misleading nature of Mr. Schiff's second statement. While it is true that the 16th Amendment did not create a new category of taxes, it did remove the constitutional "regulations concerning the mode in which [Congress'] plenary power [to tax] was to be exerted." 36 S. Ct. at 240. Thus, Congress *did* acquire greater power since it would no longer be restricted in how a tax derived from property could be imposed.

As to Mr. Schiff's last assertion regarding *Brushaber*, the Supreme Court held that "taxation on income was in its nature an excise... unless and until it was concluded that to enforce it would amount to" a burden on property. (emphasis added) 36 S. Ct. at 241. Thus, an income tax could be an excise tax or a "direct" tax, depending upon the source of the income, i.e., derived from employment or from property.

Based on his conjured-up view of *Brushaber*, Mr. Schiff went on to state that "the 16th Amendment only presumes to tax 'income,' without apportionment—and not anything else, such as wages, dividends, alimony, interest, etc." As is evident from the above discussion, however, the 16th Amendment does not impose any tax; it simply broadened the mode by which "direct" taxes could be imposed. The power to impose income taxes is found in Art. I, S 8, Cl. 1 of the Constitution, a power which the Supreme Court held to be "exhaustive and embraces every conceivable power of taxation..." *Brushaber*, 36 S. Ct. at 239. Thus, wages and alimony are taxable as excise taxes and dividends and interest are taxable as direct taxes.

Finally, regarding *Merchant's Loan and Trust Co. v. Smietanka*, 255 U.S. 509, 41 S. Ct. 386 (1921), Mr. Schiff asserted that the Supreme Court held that "income" in the 16th Amendment "means corporate profits..." In fact, the Court held that it had "become definitely settled," 41 S. Ct. at 389, that "income" meant "a gain derived from capital, from labor, or from both combined, provided it be understood to



include profit gained through sales or conversion of capital assets." (citation omitted)." 41 S. Ct. at 388.

As to Mr. Schiff's offer to pay me \$1,000 if I can "produce" the laws "requiring the payment of income taxes," Mr. Schiff is apparently playing a semantics game. Unlike the code sections he references (which require certain excise taxes to "be paid"), the income tax provisions (beginning at 26 U.S.C. S 1) require the payment of taxes by using the phrase "[t]here is hereby imposed on the taxable income of [certain persons]... a tax determined in accordance with the following table..." While this language does not use the word "paid" or "pay," when coupled with penalty imposed by 26 U.S.C. S 7203, it creates as much a legal duty to pay income taxes as the excise tax laws do by using the word "paid" or "pay."

I might note that Mr. Schiff has tried this disingenuous tactic before. In *Newman v. Schiff*, 778 F.2d 460 (8th Cir. 1985), the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit agreed that Mr. Schiff did not have to pay off on a similar challenge—but only because Mr. Newman's acceptance of Mr. Schiff's offer was not timely. The court,

however, praised Mr. Newman for "unmasking the 'blatant nonsense' [concerning the tax code] dispensed by Schiff." *Id.* at 467.

While I fully expect that I will not see a check for \$1,000 from Mr. Schiff since he will probably, as he did with Mr. Newman, adhere to the literal conditions of his challenge—that, to collect, I must produce Code sections that include the words "pay" or "paid"—my object in writing this letter is not to collect money. Rather, my object is to renew my warning to readers of the NEWS who are tempted to violate federal tax laws based upon Mr. Schiff's explanation thereof, that they are potentially martyring themselves on a false premise.

Richard E. Gardiner
Springfield, VA

On Schiff

Last night I was privileged to listen to Mr. Irwin Schiff on WWWE radio out of Cleveland. As a born-again Christian, with a retired military, very conservative background, and a dues-paying Libertarian, I would like to point out what I believe would be a very fertile area of endeavor for Libertarians.

Many churches, both liberal and conservative, are terrified of speaking out politically because of federal income tax threats. A Libertarian campaign in this area might bring big dividends.

If I am wrong, or the LP national HQ has already undertaken this, I am sure someone will inform me.

Stephen L. Kirkpatrick
Green Bay, VA

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Upcoming Events

March 31-April 2, 1995:

Colorado LP Convention, Coach House Resort, Loveland; for information call Mary Margaret Glennie at 303-484-8184. Speakers include Dr. Thomas Szasz.

April 1, 1995:

The Bikers' Rights Action Group of Michigan's Second Annual April Fool's Day Poker Run, Fowlerville, MI; for information call 517-288-5616.

April 7-8, 1995:

Wisconsin LP Convention, Pioneer Inn, Oshkosh; for information call Jeff Engelmann at 414-235-4587. Speakers include Robert Poole of the Reason Foundation.

April 8, 1995:

Kansas LP Convention, Harvey House, Wichita; for information call 913-862-4846. Banquet speaker is Harry Browne.

April 13, 1995:

The FFF's Vienna (VA) Coffee Club featuring Leonard Liggio of the Atlas Institute on "The Emergence of Libertarianism"; for information call 703-934-6969.

April 17, 1995:

Tax Protest Day.

April 19, 1995:

2nd Amendment Day.

April 21-23, 1995:

Pennsylvania LP Convention, Holiday Inn - Pittsburgh Airport, Coraopolis; for information call 412-262-3600 or 800-333-4835. Speakers include Scott Bullock, Anita Hoge, Peter J. Ferrara, and Jacob "Bumper" Hornberger.

April 21-23, 1995:

Illinois LP Convention, Ramada Woodfield Hotel, Palatine; for information call 708-776-8090.

April 22, 1995:

Massachusetts LP Convention, Holiday Inn, Somerville; for information call 617-628-6889.

April 22, 1995:

Indiana LP Convention (rescheduled date), Adam's Mark Hotel, Indianapolis; for information call Barbara Bourland at 317-463-6601.

April 28-30, 1995:

Arizona LP Convention, Days Inn Conference Center, Phoenix; for information call 602-248-8425.

April 28-30, 1995:

Michigan LP Convention, Hilton Inn-Airport, Grand Rapids; for information call Sharon Greene at 616-452-4214. Speakers include Doug Bandow, Harry Browne, MI State Rep. Greg Kaza, Mike Finch of Heartland Institute, and many more.

April 28-30, 1995:

New York LP Convention, Albany; for more information call 212-219-2702 or 518-861-5009. Speakers include John Taylor Gatto.

April 29, 1995:

Georgia LP Convention, Clarion Hotel, Atlanta; for more information call 404-888-9468.

May 6, 1995:

Minnesota LP Convention; St. Paul.

May 7, 1995:

North Carolina LP Convention; Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte; for information call 704-548-1889 or 704-734-0564. Speakers include Harry Browne and Irwin Schiff.

May 12-14, 1995:

Ohio LP Convention; Holiday Inn on the Lane, Columbus; for information call 216-248-9995. Speakers include Robert Anton Wilson, Irwin Schiff, Dr. Mary Ruwart, Harry Browne, and Frederick Mann.

Upcoming Events

May 13, 1995:

Alaska LP Convention; 3 Rivers Tesoro, Talkeetna; for information call 907-248-HEMP.

June 10-11, 1995:

Washington State LP Convention, Mountaineers Club, Tacoma; for more information call Pat Michl at 206-862-6653.

June 11, 1995:

Oregon LP Convention, Portland.

June 16-17, 1995:

Florida LP Convention, Orlando.

June 30-July 2, 1995:

Texas LP Convention, Guest Quarters Hotel on Westheimer, Houston; for more information contact Joe Lusardi at 713-784-1776 or 800-422-1776.

July 1, 1995:

Second Annual 2nd Amendment Rally, State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA; for more information call 707-429-2871.

July 29, 1995:

Alabama LP Convention, Montgomery. Speakers include Harry Browne and Jacob Hornberger.

Sept. 23, 1995:

Connecticut LP Convention.

Sept. 30, 1995:

West Virginia LP Convention.

Send upcoming event notices **early** to: Libertarian Party NEWS, P.O. Box 3391, Gainesville, GA 30503.

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